

Hafa Adai!

Drug Court graduate returns to court. **PAGE 3**  
New rules for EB-5 program. **PAGE 8**

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# Saipan Tribune

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By CAROLE FELDMAN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**W**ASHINGTON (AP)—About 3.1 million people would lose food stamp benefits under the Trump administration's proposal



In this Feb. 27, 2019 file photo, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue testifies during a House Agriculture Committee hearing, on Capitol Hill in Washington. AP

to tighten automatic eligibility requirements for the food stamp program.

The Agriculture Department said Tuesday that the rule would close a "loophole" that enables people receiving only minimal benefits from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to be eligible automatically for food stamps without undergoing further checks on their income or assets. "For too long, this loophole has been used to effectively bypass important eligibility guidelines. Too often, states have misinterpreted the rule to expand it to people who don't qualify for food stamps," said Perdue. See **USDA** on **Page 4**

It's another hit on hunger.

## USDA rule would cut food stamp for 3.1M

**MVA working to cap number of Grotto visitors**



By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority is working with other government agencies to regulate the number of people visiting the Grotto, a dive site in Marpi, according to MVA managing director

» **Propst says site overcrowded, working on bill to ban smoking at site**

Priscilla Iakopo yesterday. When asked for com-

ments about Rep. Edwin K. Propst's (Ind-Saipan) concerns about overcrowding at the Grotto as well as the proliferation of trash, Iakopo said

See **MVA** on **Page 4**

Tourists visit the Grotto, a famous dive spot in Marpi, in this file photo. Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) has expressed concern about overcrowding and trash at the site. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

## Two consecutive tourist burglaries

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety reported two separate tourist burglaries last Tuesday at two popular tourist sites on island.

See **BURGLARIES** on **Page 4**

## INSIDE



### NATION

The Trump administration has put its stamp on the nation's immigration court system.

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### WORLD

Boris Johnson, Britain's Brexit campaigner, is chosen as the U.K.'s next prime minister.

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### LIFE & STYLE

Ariana Grande and Taylor Swift are the top contenders at the 2019 MTV Video Music Awards.

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# Local

## ‘Create tax incentive for installation of CCTV cameras’

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
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REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is against a bill that would require businesses to install closed-circuit television cameras, or CCTVs. Instead, the group wants the government to create incentives for businesses that install

CCTV cameras.

The Chamber, in comments on Rep. Richard Lizama's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 21-33, opposes the legislation that seeks to legally mandate the installation of CCTV cameras on a business establishment.

“This legislation regulates businesses in a way that is non-related to commerce,”

Chamber president Velma M. Palacios noted in a letter dated June 4, 2019. “Rather than forcing regulation, the CNMI government should offer tax incentives up to a certain amount for businesses to participate in this initiative that benefits the community, protects our people, and reduces expenses for the Department

of Public Safety.”

The Chamber was the sole entity that submitted comments on Lizama's bill.

The bill is supposedly intended to deter crimes from being committed and ultimately going unresolved. The bill seeks to “secure businesses by useful installation of CCTV, assist law enforcers, increase safety and security of busi-

nesses and the general public, and to discourage crime and likewise, to protect people, promote peace and order, life, liberty, property and general welfare.”

If the bill is enacted into law in its current form, H.B. 21-33 would hold the issuance or renewal of a business license until there is full compliance with the legislation, along

with a fine of \$50 for the first offense of not installing the CCTV and \$100 for each subsequent offense.

The House of Representatives, during their session last July 18 at the House chamber on Capital Hill, deferred action on the bill until Lizama returns to the CNMI. It was not stated during the meeting where Lizama went.



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## NMC summer campers learn traditional dances



Members of the Northern Marianas College Project PROA program's Summer Bridge Camp follow Simiyan Manianata's creative director Luis John Castro perform a dance step last July 15 at the NMC library.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By MARC A. VENUS  
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REPORTER

Participants in the Northern Marianas College Project PROA program's Summer Bridge Camp were introduced to traditional Chamorro dances by the Simiyan Manianata group at NMC's library last July 15.

That means they had to learn how to dance traditional dances.

Rep. Luis John DLG Castro (R-Saipan), the creative director Simiyan Manianata, was impressed by the participants' enthusiasm throughout the entire session and the diverse mix of students that participated.

Castro was equally amazed at his student performers as their first-ever time to teach students outside of the group the ways of traditional Chamorro dancing and chanting.

Castro was also happy to

see that participants of different ethnicities eagerly learning about the Chamorro culture.

He said that Project PROA program coordinator Malyssa Castro approached him and asked if the group can teach the camp participants some dance steps and chants. “We were most happy to oblige, because we try to promote to our kids... to be proud of their indigenous backgrounds,” he said.

The primary focus of the one-day session was the fast-paced dances, coordination with dances and music, and getting participants out of their comfort zones.

According to the NMC's website, Project PROA aims to improve and expand the capacity of indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian students on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota by increasing the number and proportion of those who enroll and graduate on time at NMC.

Simiyan Manianata is a non-profit organization that promotes the uniqueness of Chamorro culture through performing arts. It is now about five years old. The group has performed in village fiestas, school exhibitions, and popular island events like the International Festival of Cultures. Castro said that some of the group's alumni have participated in events outside of Saipan such as the Tumon Bay Music Festival.

Castro said the group will be celebrating its fifth anniversary this August. The group currently has about 18 members and hopes to get more in the future.

He also hopes that the group can secure a permanent practice facility as the group has been using areas around to island to conduct dance practices. He thanked all of those in the community that opened their doors to help them out.

## Drug Court grad returns to court

A CNMI Drug Court graduate who was arrested last week for alleged possession of methamphetamine or "ice" waived his right to a preliminary hearing yesterday. A preliminary hearing is intended to determine if there's cause to try someone in court.

Robert Camacho Torres, 40, was arrested for allegedly possessing a controlled substance that was found after the car he was a passenger in was stopped by police for a traffic infraction.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan ordered Torres to return to court to be arraigned on July 29.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Torres was a passenger in a vehicle that was stopped by police for running without headlights.

Torres allegedly violated police orders when he was ordered to put his hands on the dashboard while police were searching the vehicle.

Torres was allegedly seen reaching into his right pocket

## NMD group forms nine committees

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp. held a general membership meeting early Tuesday evening at the Carolinian Ut in Garapan and created nine working committees that cover many of the group's concerns relating to those of Northern Marianas descent.

The committees are Resources & Development, Social Development, NMD Elected Council, Government, Finance/Fundraising, Marketing/Public Relations, Membership, Events, and Legal committee. Aside from the Social Development Committee, the group was able to select members as chairpersons of each committee.

According to NMDC president John Gonzales, a total of about 40 members showed up at the meeting.

The group was established in March 26, 2013. Its paramount goal is to advocate for all NMDs with respect to their right ownership of public lands under Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution and privately-owned lands that are held by persons of Northern Marianas descent, Gonzales said.

"We believe that the leaders now are representing the interests of not only NMDs, but also non-NMDs," Gonzales said.

The group's current goal is to work on the NMD Elected Council, which is headed by Danny Quitugua. This elected council will be similar to the precinct level set up by the political subdivisions, meaning that council members will be elected every two years. (Marc A. Venus)

twice and reaching beneath the passenger seat, which led police to ask him to step out of the vehicle.

After multiple attempts to ask the officer why he was being asked to step out of the vehicle, he complied and police

found various drug paraphernalia's and a baggie containing a crystal-like substance beneath the passenger seat.

Police also found a used glass pipe, a yellow lighter, a half-sealed straw, a zip lock bag containing three other zip lock bags,

two of which contained crystal like substances that later tested positive for methamphetamine. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

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**Jasmine Matsumoto** **235-7133** **jmatsumoto@triplejsaipan.com**

# 'Pot commission manager does not need agriculture experience'

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
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REPORTER

Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) clarified yesterday that the Commonwealth Cannabis Commission's requirement for managing director was tweaked because the director merely carries out policies crafted by the commissioners.

Hofschneider, as chairman of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, insists that the tweaks on the requirements for the managing director of

the Cannabis Commission were justified.

In the House version of Rep. John Paul Sablan's (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-13, the cannabis commission's managing director is required to have a bachelor's degree or four years work experience in the agricultural or related industries.

H.B. 21-13 amends the law that created the cannabis commission and with it, the regulations on cannabis consumption and policies for regulating

the industry. The legislation also designates a managing director as well as five commissioners representing all senatorial districts in the CNMI.

In the Senate version, the committee removed the possibility of substituting four years of work experience in the agricultural or related industries for a bachelor's degree.

"We feel that management qualifications do not need to have that [experience] since [the] commission is tasked with developing the policy for

the management to carry out," Hofschneider said. "[The cannabis commission] can also commission experts to guide them if the need arises."

The five-year work experience in professional, administrative, or management in government or private sectors for the managing director remained intact in the Senate version of the bill.

H.B. 21-13, HD1, SS1 heads back to the House for discussion and action. Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* in an in-

terview last July 22, 2019, however, that some of the Senate changes were not a big deal and that they would decide whether to accept or reject the changes at the next

House session.

If the House reject the Senate changes, the Legislature will go into a conference committee to reach an agreement on the bill.

## MVA

From Page 1

that MVA is aware of the situation and that they are working to resolve these issues.

Iakopo said they have plans to upgrade the dive site's facilities and to address safety concerns.

As for the trash and cigarette butts scattered in the area, she said they have volunteer groups that regularly pick up trash at the site and have contracted services to monitor activities for safety reasons and clean the site.

In addition, she said, Parks and Recreation personnel have routine schedules to keep all MVA sites clean.

"It is important that our visitors and our community understand the importance of keeping our sites clean for the next person to enjoy," Iakopo said.

Propst posted in his Facebook account Tuesday pictures of cigarette butts scattered on the ground and the many tourists crowding the Grotto.

Propst said he and his staff visited Grotto that morning at around 10:30am and that there were already a ton of tourists and the parking area was full.

"Trash and cigarette butts [were] everywhere," he said, adding that he was told that the place is usually jam-packed in the afternoons, with parking going all the way up the hill.

"We can do better than this," he said.

Between 700 and 1,000 visitors go to the Grotto everyday, he added.

There is currently no fee to enter the Grotto, despite legislation introduced in the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> House of Representatives to charge a \$5 fee per tourist.

In an interview yesterday, Propst expressed concern about law enforcement at the dive site as there is only one security guard and there are too many tourists.

Propst said he is now working on a bill to ban smoking at the Grotto and is also considering extending the ban to all tourist sites in the CNMI.



## 'MOST MINUTES READ'

Participants in the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's 13th Annual Children's Collaborative Summer Library Program from July 9 to 19 read books as part of the Children's Summer Reading Program's Top Readers for "Most Minutes Read."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## USDA

From Page 1

used this flexibility without restraint," Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said in a statement.

The rule, expected to be published in the *Federal Register* on Wednesday, is open for public comment for 60 days.

The proposed rule is the latest in the Trump administration's efforts to cut back on the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program or SNAP, the official name of the food stamp program. It also has proposed to tighten work requirements for those who receive federal food assistance.

USDA estimates that 1.7 million households—3.1 million people—"will not otherwise meet SNAP's income and asset eligibility prerequisites under the proposed rule." That would result in a net savings of about \$9.4 billion over five years.

An unpublished version of the proposed rule acknowledges the impact, saying it

"may also negatively impact food security and reduce the savings rates among those individuals who do not meet the income and resource eligibility requirements for SNAP or the substantial and ongoing requirements for expanded categorical eligibility."

Democrats in Congress were quick to condemn the proposal.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said it was "the administration's latest act of staggering callousness" while Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said he would "fight to make sure these cuts never become a reality."

Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., said the administration was trying anew to circumvent Congress and that the effect would be to "take food away from families, prevent children from getting school meals, and make it harder for states to administer food assistance."

Congress has rejected previous, similar attempts to change the expanded automatic eligibility provisions, most recently during the farm bill

debate in 2018.

Robert Greenstein, president of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, said the proposal could discourage working families with incomes close to the maximum for SNAP participation from seeking more work out of fear that the added wages could make them ineligible for the program.

"The proposed rule would weaken SNAP's role in supporting work while making it harder for families that struggle to get by on low wages to meet their basic needs," he said.

About 36 million people participated in SNAP in April 2019, down from more than 38 million a year earlier.

Under current law, states may automatically make people eligible for food stamps, if they meet income and other requirements for TANF. USDA says 43 states have

expanded that to include households that it says "barely participate" in TANF. The provision is called "expanded categorical eligibility."

USDA said the policy has resulted in people receiving food stamps who don't need it and wouldn't qualify under regular program rules.

Ellen Vollinger, legal director of the Food Research & Action Center, said the proposal was troubling and that the government should "put attention on how to help more people, not undercut supports for them and make their struggle against hunger even harder."

She said the department didn't seem to address a resulting loss of school meals, which she said the Congressional Budget Office included in its analyses of previous, similar proposals. "It's another hit on hunger," she said.

Under the proposal, to qualify for automatic eligibility, people would have to get at least \$50 a month in benefits from TANF for a minimum of six months.

Perdue said the change is necessary for "preventing abuse of a critical safety net system so those who need food assistance the most are the only ones who receive it."

## BURGLARIES

From Page 1

and their rented vehicles.

According to DPS spokesperson Adrian Pangelinan, DPS still cannot say if both crimes are tied to the same suspect or suspects as police investigation continues.

The first involved a tourist vehicle burglary at Ladder Beach in Obyan. DPS received a 911 call about the incident at about 1:56pm last Tuesday. Officers arrived at the scene at about 2:19pm and met with the victim, a male tourist, who immediately pointed in the direction of his rental vehicle, a yellow Camaro convertible, which had a large opening on the vehicle's driver's side.

Officers learned that the male individual arrived at Ladder Beach with his wife and son at around 1:30pm and noticed that there were no vehicles in the area. The family parked their vehicle and walked down toward the beach to take some family photos.

After 15 minutes, the victim made his way back to the rental car to retrieve his bag. As he was walking toward the car, he noticed that the canvas of the convertible had been cut open. Items taken from the vehicle include a green Adidas sling bag that contained the family's per-

sonal belongings, credit cards, and some Chinese currency.

The second burglary was another tourist vehicle burglary at the Last Command Post in Marpi. At about 7:46pm, the DPS substation in Garapan entertained a walk-in complaint of a burglary and theft incident that occurred earlier that day at the Last Command Post.

The victim, a female tourist, told officers that she and a few friends arrived at the Last Command Post and got down from their rental car to take pictures.

After about 40 minutes, the victim said the group went back to their vehicle and one of their female companions noticed that her purse was nowhere to be found. They quickly searched the vehicle but could not find it so they drove to the police substation in Garapan to seek police assistance.

Items missing include a Chinese passport, the victim's Chinese driver's license, a small white purse with a black strap with an estimated value of \$300, assorted cosmetic products, and \$300.

If you have any information related to the burglary and theft incidents that occurred in Marpi or Obyan, call 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, call the NMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272.

# CUC bids out construction of new San Vicente water tank

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is now soliciting bids to replace the corroded San Vicente water storage tank with a pre-stressed concrete tank, similar to the one in-

stalled at the Northern Marianas College.

CUC acting executive director William Gilmore said the 750,000-gallon water tank behind San Vicente Church is still operating but it's "rusted badly."

"We don't trust it to handle

## Boss: FirstNet to be deployed in 2020

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly.bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Docomo Pacific's deployment of FirstNet in the Marianas is anticipated by 2020 and it promises to provide CNMI first responders its own platform for communication during emergencies and natural disasters.

In a short interview with Docomo Pacific CEO Roderick Boss, he said the project is a partnership between AT&T, the broadband that offers FirstNet, and Docomo as its CNMI provider.

Boss said FirstNet would be beneficial to the Marianas, especially since the Marianas is prone to experiencing major typhoons like Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Soudelor. "FirstNet would allow unified communication for all first responders," he added.

When asked how bringing the FirstNet platform to the CNMI would benefit Docomo, Boss said this would

allow Docomo to expand its number of cell sites. Docomo currently has 38 cell sites in the CNMI.

Boss stated that Docomo is committed to sustaining this partnership with AT&T.

FirstNet is being built with AT&T in a public-private partnership with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority)—an independent agency within the federal government.

FirstNet delivers a single, nationwide network platform that's purpose-built to enhance communications across the entire public safety community. FirstNet is available to all first responders—career and volunteer, urban, rural or tribal.

Based on the collaboration with AT&T, Docomo will provide access to its existing LTE network coverage and capacity while helping to build out additional LTE coverage with the FirstNet Band 14 spectrum.

with major storms," said Gilmore, adding that the existing tank is starting to spring leaks. "We're bidding it as we speak," he said.

The San Vicente water tank is among the many U.S. Environmental Protection Agency projects intended to improve CUC's water distribution system on the island.

EPA is funding three projects on Saipan, including the replacement of the San Vicente water tank, with an estimated total cost of \$4.8 million,

hour water service in San Vicente, As Lito, Chinatown homestead, and other areas.

EPA inspector John Tinger disclosed last year that the San Vicente storage tank project has a projected cost of \$3.3 million. Tinger said the Chinatown homestead waterline replacement project has an estimated cost of \$1.1 million, while the As Lito water main project has a cost of \$1.4 million.

EPA is funding two other CUC projects—in Gualo Rai and Fina Sisu—with an estimated cost of \$2.73 million.

Under the projects, old and leaking water lines were replaced to enable CUC to provide 24-hour water supply.

Gilmore disclosed that they are also bidding on two of three other major water transmission projects.

He said there will be a significant improvement in terms of water service and water pressure upon completion of these EPA-funded projects.

Gilmore said they are going to replace a lot of old water lines with concrete pipes.

"It will be from smaller service to the larger service. Pres-

sure should be better, supply should be better," he said.

Gilmore said the projects would also help CUC reduce its non-revenue water loss problem because the targeted places have significant leaks.

By installing new pipes, this will reduce CUC's leak issue dramatically, he added.

CUC wants to reduce its non-revenue water loss to below 50%. At present, CUC's non-revenue water loss is at 65 percent.

Gilmore said their leak detection group is now doing work up north of Saipan.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### NMC Info Session tonight

Northern Marianas College is reminding all individuals interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers to attend its info session that will be held tonight, July 25, 2019, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the NMC Library on campus. In addition to the admission process, the session will include a discussion on financial aid options.

Those who attend the information session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming fall 2019 semester—a savings of about \$75.

NMC will also allow participants an opportunity to register for classes for the fall 2019 semester. The first day of classes is on Aug. 26, 2019.

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming fall 2019 semester or to apply for admission, contact NMC's Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu). (PR)

### Scheduled power interruption on Friday

There will be a scheduled

power interruption on Friday, July 26, from 8:30am to 2pm on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit, affecting the Isley Field in Dandan and causing a momentary outages for Obyan, Sky Chef, and the Aircraft and Rescue Firefighting facility, from 1:30pm to 2pm.

Aside from the Isley Wells, the water wells affected include IF 19, 20, and 21. No wastewater lift station will be affected.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to safely replace 13,000 linear feet of primary conductors. The power interruption is part of CUC and FEMA's Water System Mitigation program aimed at hardening and strengthening the power distribution system that supplies power to the water wells located at Isley Field in Dandan village. Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). (PR)



# 35TH ANNUAL SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL FISHING TOURNAMENT

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# TSL Foundation donates to NMTI dinner fundraiser

TSL Foundation has renewed its commitment to trades education in the CNMI by again donating \$1,500 to the Northern Marianas Trades Institute's 4th Annual Gala, which will be held this Friday, July 26, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

## EEOC expands online services

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission announced yesterday the expansion of its EEOC Public Portal to allow federal employees and applicants to file and manage requests for hearings and appeals of their federal equal employment opportunity complaints.

"This secure online system is a faster and easier way for federal employees, agencies and the EEOC to communicate, send and receive documents, and track case status," said EEOC chair Janet Dhillon. "We expect it to greatly improve the efficiency and transparency of the EEOC's hearings and appeals of discrimination complaints brought by federal employees and applicants."

The EEOC Public Portal allows federal employees and applicants (complainants) to create an account in order to submit an online request for a hearing or to file an appeal of their discrimination complaint. The Public Portal also permits these complainants to:

- Identify an attorney or
- Submit and receive documents supporting their case
- Check the status of their case
- Update contact information
- Respond to an invitation to engage in alternative dispute resolution at the hearings stage

The EEOC is also notifying complainants with pending cases that they may register in the Public Portal to manage their cases. Individuals with hearings and appeals that were filed on or after Oct. 1, 2016, that are still pending and who have an email address in their case file will receive an email with instructions on how to register and create an account in the Public Portal.

The EEOC has developed *Frequently Asked Questions* and *User Guides* to help federal employees and their representatives and federal agencies use the EEOC Public Portal.

More information is available at [www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov). (PR)

representative and provide their contact information

The annual event is a time in which NMTI offers awards that include the Jose "Joeten" Tenorio Award for Distinguished Benefactor, Robert Jones award for Excellence in the Culinary Arts, Jose Ayuyu Award, for Excellence in Hotel and Restaurant Operations, Tun Donicio Torres Award for Excellence

in the Construction Trades, the Tony Pellegrino Award for a student's career achievement, and the Vicente Sablan Award for being a Trailblazer in Trades.

The awards are named after some great pillars in the community.

"We'd like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the TSL Foundation, [TanHoldings]

president Jerry Tan and foundation board members for donating to this year's NMTI gala," said Agnes McPhetres, NMTI's chief executive officer. "Throughout its existence, the TSL Foundation has always donated to various charities, organizations, sports events and other community events. They are truly an active community stakeholder.

The CNMI is blessed to have them doing business here locally," she added.

NMTI continues to preach throughout the community that trades education can only be done through hands-on education.

Gala tickets are priced at \$100 per person and can be bought by calling Ross Manglona at (670) 322-6684. (PR)

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Tan Holdings

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Tan Holdings

Tan Siu Lin Foundation



From left, Jerry Tan, TanHoldings president; Vic Cepeda, Northern Marianas Trades Institute director of External Relations; Frank Rabaulima, NMTI-director of Finance & Administration; Merlie Tolentino, TSL Foundation manager; Agnes McPhetres, NMTI CEO; Ross Manglona, NMTI director of Continuing Ed.; and Mel Naputi, TSL Foundation administrative assistant.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# 36TH SAIPAN AGRICULTURAL FAIR

## AGRICULTURE RESILIENCY FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

### SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2019

### 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

### Garapan Central Park

To register for exhibitions, please contact:



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Lucretia Sison  
670.256.3320



VENDORS  
Tina Marie DLG. Camacho  
670.256.3319



PLANT DIVISION  
Serina Kaipat  
670.322.9987



YOUTH DIVISION  
Maia Pangelinean  
670.237.6840



ENTERTAINMENT DIVISION  
Gus Kaipat  
670.322.9834/30

## NatGeo aims to solve Amelia Earhart mystery

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.** (AP)—The deep-sea explorer who discovered the wrecked Titanic is tackling an aviation mystery: Amelia Earhart's disappearance.

Robert Ballard and a Nation-

al Geographic expedition will search for her plane next month near a Pacific Ocean atoll that's part of the Phoenix Islands.

Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan were attempting an around-the-world flight when

their aircraft disappeared in July 1937, spawning years of searches and speculation.

Ballard and his team will use remotely operated underwater vehicles in their search, the National Geographic chan-

nel said Tuesday. An archaeological team will investigate a potential Earhart campsite with search dogs and DNA sampling.

The channel will air a two-hour special on Oct. 20. "Expedition Amelia" will include clues gathered by the International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery that led Ballard to the atoll, named Nikumaroro.

In this June 26, 1928, file photo, American aviatrix Amelia Earhart poses with flowers as she arrives in Southampton, England, Britain, after her transatlantic flight on the "Friendship" from Burry Point, Wales. AP



## Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits Workshop/Claims Clinic Saipan, CNMI

**Date:** July 31, 2019

**Place:** Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Auditorium

**Who:** Veterans, Family Members, Survivors, and Community Providers

**Time:** 1:00pm to 4:00pm

**Workshop Topics:** VA Compensation & Pension Benefits, Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment, Loan Guaranty, Education, and Burial and Survivor Benefits. Counselors will be available to answer questions and assist with the claim process.

Department of Veterans Affairs Honolulu Regional Office



Department of Veterans Affairs  
Phone: 1-800-827-1000

Evidence Intake Center  
P O Box 4444  
Janesville, WI 53547-4444  
Fax: 844-531-7818  
E-mail: pctc.vbahon@va.gov

## New rules for EB-5 program

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will publish a final rule today (July 24 in the U.S. mainland) that makes a number of significant changes to its EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program, marking the first significant revision of the program's regulations since 1993. The final rule will become effective on Nov. 21, 2019.

New developments under the final rule include:

■ Raising the minimum investment amounts;

■ Revising the standards for certain targeted employment area designations;

■ Giving the agency responsibility for directly managing TEA designations;

■ Clarifying USCIS procedures for the removal of conditions on permanent residence; and

■ Allowing EB-5 petitioners to retain their priority date under certain circumstances.

Under the EB-5 program, individuals are eligible to ap-

ply for conditional lawful permanent residence in the United States if they make the necessary investment in a commercial enterprise in the United States and create or, in certain circumstances, preserve 10 permanent full-time jobs for qualified U.S. workers.

"Nearly 30 years ago, Congress created the EB-5 program to benefit U.S. workers, boost the economy, and aid distressed communities by providing an incentive for foreign capital investment in the United States," said acting USCIS director Ken Cuccinelli. "Since its inception, the EB-5 program has drifted away from Congress's intent. Our reforms increase the investment level to account for inflation over the past three decades and substantially restrict the possibility of gerrymandering to ensure that the reduced investment amount is reserved for rural and high-unemployment areas most in need. This final rule strengthens the EB-5 program by returning it to its congressional intent."

Major changes to EB-5 in the final rule include:

■ **Raising minimum investment amounts:** As of the effective date of the final rule, the standard minimum investment level will increase from \$1 million to \$1.8 million, the first increase since 1990, to account for inflation. The rule also keeps the 50% minimum investment differential between a TEA and a non-TEA, thereby increasing the minimum investment amount in a TEA from \$500,000 to \$900,000. The final rule also provides that the minimum investment amounts will automatically adjust for inflation every five years.

■ **TEA designation reforms:** The final rule outlines changes to the EB-5 program to address gerrymandering of high-unemployment areas (which means deliberately manipulating the boundaries of an electoral constituency). For more information on USCIS and its programs, visit [uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov). (PR)



## U.S. PROBATION OFFICE

Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands



## NOTICE OF SOLICITATION

### TREATMENT SERVICES FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND SEX OFFENDERS FOR FEDERAL DEFENDANTS AND OFFENDERS

The U.S. Probation/Pretrial Services Office, Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, intends to procure substance abuse, mental health, and sex offender treatment services for federal defendants and offenders using Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs). Separate BPAs will be issued for Guam, Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, and required services may include the following: **urine collection testing and reporting; intake and assessment; counseling; psychological evaluations; medication; and therapy.**

Interested vendors must respond on time and clearly show the following: (1) they can provide services; (2) such services will be provided by certified, licensed professionals with experience in such treatment; and (3) prices of such treatment shall be as low or lower than those charged to the vendor's most favored customer for comparable quantities under similar terms and conditions.

Interested vendors must contact John San Nicolas, Supervisory U.S. Probation Officer, no later than Friday, August 9, 2019 at the following address:

U.S. Probation Office  
Districts of Guam and the NMI  
2nd Floor U.S. Courthouse  
520 West Soledad Avenue  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Email: [john\\_san\\_nicolas@gup.uscourts.gov](mailto:john_san_nicolas@gup.uscourts.gov)  
Telephone: (671) 969-4600  
Facsimile: (671) 969-4601



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Collaborative Summer Library Program pose for a photo after visiting the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting facility at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Participants in the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Collaborative Summer Library Program pose for a photo.

## 'A universe of stories'

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library played host to a total of 110 children ages 6 to 12 years old from July 9 to 19 for the 13th Annual Children's Collaborative Summer Library Program.

Called "A Universe of Stories," the camp enabled children to participate in an intensive two-week session filled with reading, science and technology-related activities, exploratory space programs, arts and crafts, music, dance, story exploring activities, field trips, and more.

Participating children read over 50,000 minutes in a span of two weeks.

The winners for the Children's Summer Reading Program's Top Readers for "Most Minutes Read." The Top 2 readers ages 6-8 years-old (Session 1) are Yutaka Kadokura (966 minutes) and Alexis Salundaguit (403 minutes).

The Top 2 readers for ages 9-11-years-old (Session 2) are Lucia Concepcion Aldan Deleon Guerrero (4,564 minutes) and Yurong "Amy" Jang

(3,406 minutes).

Top readers received gift certificates, book bags, school supplies, magic kits, and a certificate.

Those who were unable to attend the summer program can still participate in independent reading activities at the library. Participants are required to have a JKPL library card with no pending fees or fines, and fill out a reading log.

Registration for the Early Literacy, Teen, and the Adult Reading Program is still ongoing until Friday, Aug. 23, 2019.

You will receive a reading log, which you will need to complete in order to earn prizes.

The public is also invited to join the JKPL Bookmobile Collaborative Summer Library Program. The Bookmobile promotes the library by visiting Saipan's Youth and Community Centers.

The Bookmobile Collaborative Summer Library Program Registration is ongoing or until filled.

The program is free and

open to children ages 6-12 years, teens ages 13-18 years, and adults.

To participate, they must have a valid library card with no pending obligations. Free lunch will be provided to each of the registered participants at their respective locations (ages 18 and under), courtesy of the Public School System's Food and Nutrition Service. Call Leoralynn Terlaje at 287-7316 or Vicasha Camacho at 235-7322/23 for more information.

The Bookmobile Collaborative Summer Library Program schedule is:

- Session 1: Gualo Rai Youth Center July 23-July 26, 2019, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm
- Session 2: Tanapag Youth Center, July 30-Aug. 1, 2019, from 1:30pm to 3:30PM
- Session 3: Chalan Kanoa Manhoben Youth Center, Aug. 6-9, 2019, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm
- Session 4: Fernando Benavente Memorial Library (San Antonio), Aug. 13-16, 2019, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm
- Session 5: Kagman Community Center, Aug. 20-23, 2019, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm (PR)

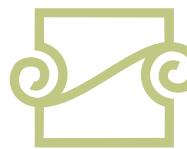
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# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## What the case against Jeffrey Epstein can teach us about child sex trafficking

The accusations against Jeffrey Epstein are a horror show of almost unimaginable scope that suggest not only individual depravity but institutional indifference of a sort that deflates our confidence in the blindness of justice.

But even as we grapple with the nature of the allegations, we are also wondering what we can learn from the details put forward by law enforcement.

Even in the context of a national reckoning on sexual violence, Epstein's case is unusual. Epstein is an uber-wealthy member of the American social elite charged with sex trafficking—one of the most unspoken and misunderstood crimes in our society.

Sex trafficking is an all-too-common crime. But we so frequently associate it with the streets or massage parlors. Epstein was doing his work on a jet, in palatial estates and at country clubs, according to the charges and the statements of women who say they were abused as girls.

To understand the implications of this crime, it's important to recognize there is a clear line between soliciting sex and sex trafficking. While many prostitutes in the United States are victims of sex trafficking, their traffickers typically play the role of "pimps," selling their victims' bodies for a price. In 2007, Epstein pleaded guilty to solicitation, not sex trafficking. While soliciting a prostitute is illegal, it's a lesser crime than trafficking someone for sex.

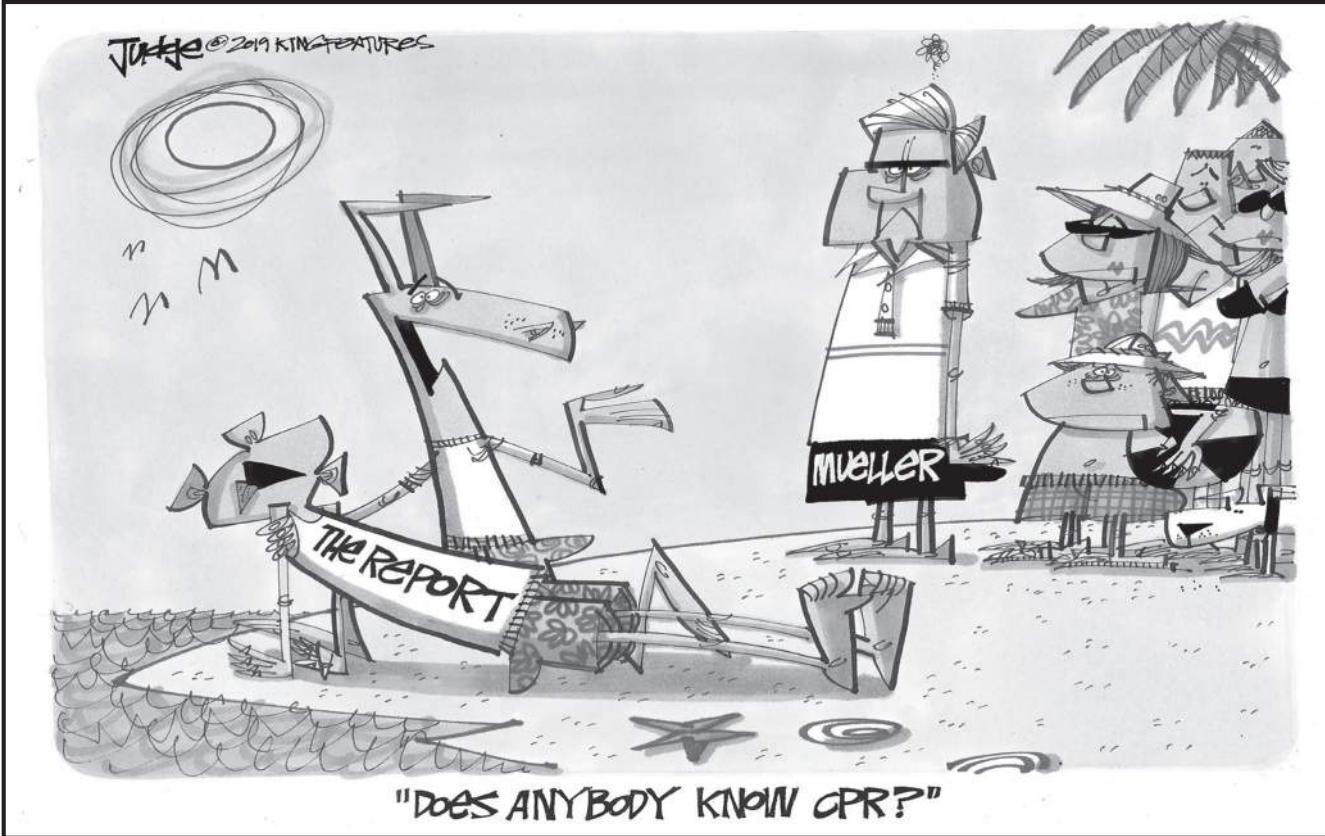
This is the most common critique of Epstein's much-criticized plea deal. Most of the more than 100 victims the Palm Beach Police identified in amassing their case were underage and unable to legally consent to sex, let alone prostitution. Prostitution of a child, under federal law, is sex trafficking.

There's also a subtle but significant difference between sex trafficking and sexual assault or abuse. Sex trafficking is the commodification of sexual violence. Most people think sex trafficking means physically moving or holding someone for sexual exploitation, but this isn't necessarily accurate. Sex trafficking is all about control. A sex trafficker controls someone's body, often by force or through some kind of coercion and often with a monetary component that benefits the trafficker.

In cases where children are victims of sex trafficking, implicit force or coercion isn't legally necessary. The power imbalance between an adult and a child is so vast that sex traffickers of children don't need outright coercion.

According to The Miami Herald, many of the girls who accused Epstein described a similar scenario—they were recruited, often by other girls, to give Epstein "massages," during which he reportedly fondled or penetrated them. Afterwards, they said they received hundreds of dollars and were told they would receive more if they recruited other girls. These allegations are disturbing, and they're also fa-

See WHAT on Next Page



## Will America 'go back' to where it came from?

It's an inside joke I've told the last couple of years.

My ancestors on both sides have been in America for generations—men, women and children whose blood, sweat and grit drenched the Maryland soil they cultivated and farmed and lived on. Originally brought by force, they claimed their place proudly and served the country's ideals admirably. In contrast, my husband, second generation to these shores, on both sides, is an American-come-lately. But because his grandfather sailed into New York harbor on a ship that set off from Kristiansand, Norway, he is our president's dream (Scandinavian) citizen.

I'm not laughing at that punch line anymore, not when Donald Trump has shown how sincerely he believes that belonging is automatic for some and conditional for others. It has never been clearer that the president of the United States considers some Americans more worthy of respect and consideration and legitimacy than others, and how he draws that line is as simple as black and white.

Are his actions the distractions of a crafty politician, a way to take attention from his revolving door of staffers—the latest being former Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta after getting caught up in the Jeffrey Epstein case—and the domestic and foreign policy chaos that dog his administration? Sure. Are they the retaliation of a president wounded by his failure to shove a citizenship question onto the 2020 U.S. census? Maybe.

But for the Americans of color weary of the darkening climate of intolerance in their beloved country—always there but now worn openly—and afraid of what that means for them and their families, not paying attention would be folly.

Trump delights in pouring salt in that never healed American wound, fraying the bonds that tenuously hold us together, subverting the tradition that maintaining those bonds is strength.

Brazenly, Trump and friends do their dirty work while ignoring his and their own immigrant histories. Trump himself is a son and grandson of immigrants, German on his father's side and Scottish on his mother's. Trump has chosen wives born outside America two out of three times, and they are the mothers of four of his five children. His in-laws are citizens courtesy of the family reunification policy he decries as chain migration whenever those not from his list of approved countries benefit.

Having one parent born outside America is something he shares with his predecessor Barack Obama, about whom Trump spread the birther lie that he was born in another country, another continent. Of course, that continent was Africa, home of places that, as president, Trump would write off with crude expletives.

Trump's background, which makes him a newcomer in my book, though I would never question his right to be here, means little to him or, apparently, his defenders. The through line of the Trump presidency has been stoking resentment of the black and brown "other." His vision is not Obama's sunny "hope and change" or Ronald Reagan's "shining city upon a hill," but the "American carnage" of his gloomy inaugural address. And for

**By MARY C. CURTIS**

CQ-Roll Call

Roll Call columnist Mary C. Curtis has worked at The New York Times, The Baltimore Sun, The Charlotte Observer and as national correspondent for Politics Daily. Follow her on Twitter @mcurtisnc3.



that, you need villains.

Though Trump's racist tweets and escalating rhetoric aimed at congresswomen of color cannot be a surprise to anyone, his "divide the country and win an election" strategy laid out for 2020 is shocking in its sheer destructiveness. He has revived "America, love it or leave it," despite the fact that dissent and the right to disagree with your neighbor, a congressperson or the president is as American as apple pie. As writer James Baldwin said: "I love America more than any other country in the world and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually."

Throwing the racist "go back to where you came from" line is so old it's a cliche, something every person of color and immigrant has heard when they do something, like exist, that angers a fellow American. (Trump criticizes everyone and everything American but, alas, is not going anywhere.) Shouting the insult at a co-worker would get most folks fired from the job. But when Trump weaponizes it against very American elected members of Congress, and most Republicans either look the other way or co-sign every vile word, it's a bid to keep his own for another four years.

And it just may work.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a request for Americans as he fought for equality. Just live up to the words of our lofty documents, of our Declaration of Independence and Constitution.

But that's harder than it looks.

Just last week, Republican members of the House of Representatives haggled over a word in a nonbinding resolution that says the chamber "strongly condemns" Trump's "racist comments that have legitimized and increased fear and hatred of new Americans and people of color." "Racist" has become the new obscenity, as it's laughably easier to call out attacks on racism than the racism itself.

The House voted, 240-187, to approve the statement, largely along party lines, though four Republicans and one independent voted "aye." The words stood, as did those of Georgia Democratic Rep. John Lewis, who said, "I know racism when I see it. I know racism when I feel it. And at the highest level of our government, there's no room for racism."

He is witness to what America was, when he was a soldier in America's 20th-century civil war over civil rights, when officers

See AMERICA on Next Page

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## In 2019, what is the definition of a racist?

**W**ASHINGTON—It is astounding that 159 years after the end of the Civil War we are having a full-throated debate about whether the U.S. president is a racist. Or is that surprising?

Donald Trump's tweet that four Democratic congresswomen of color should "go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came." (Three were born in the U.S.; another is a legal immigrant) caused the House of Representatives to pass a resolution denouncing his comments. It was, perhaps not unexpected in this polarized nation, passed almost strictly along party lines, with only four Republicans voting with Democrats to vote for the slap on the wrist.

The resolution said Trump's comments "legitimized and increased fear and hatred of new Americans and people of color." This leads to the question: In 2019, what is the definition of a racist?

The dictionary definition of a racist is "a person who shows or feels discrimination or prejudice against people of other races, or who believes that a particular race is superior to another."

Next, let's check what Trump has done and said about race.

In 1973, the federal government twice accused Trump's real-estate company of racial bias by denying black Americans rental apartments. The charges, said Trump were "absolutely ridiculous. We have never discriminated, and we never would." But his company did, in fact, settle and was fined.

When Trump owned casinos, a former employee said that when he came to visit, all persons of color were ordered off the floor so he would not see them.

Trump was known for his reality TV show but came to political prominence by advocating "birtherism," the false claim that Barack Obama was not born an American (he was born in Hawaii).

One of Trump's first acts as president was to try to ban all Muslim immigrants from the country, also suggesting he wanted to deport Muslim Americans legally here. He also excoriated Gold

Star Muslim parents whose son was killed during the Iraq war.

The "Central Park Five" was a group of black and Latino teens wrongly accused of raping a white woman in Central Park in 1989. Trump took out full-page ads in New York newspapers arguing the teens be given the death penalty. The teens were convicted of violent offenses and sentenced to five to 15 years in prison. In 2002 another individual confessed and more evidence was found exonerating the teens, who were awarded a settlement of \$41 million. Trump has continued to argue they were guilty and called the settlement a "disgrace."

Trying to block Native Americans from opening casinos that could compete with his bankruptcy-bound casinos, Trump told a congressional hearing: "They don't look like Indians to me."

Trump was quoted by a former executive as saying of a black accountant: "Black guys counting my money! I hate it. ... I think that the guy is lazy. And it's probably not his fault, because laziness is a trait in blacks."

During a class action suit against Trump University for defrauding students, Trump said he couldn't get a fair trial from the American judge because he had a Mexican name.

When Ku Klux Klansmen campaigned for him in 2016, Trump refused to renounce their support. During the white supremacy march in Charlottesville, when a young woman protester was killed, Trump said there were good people on both sides.

Trump has referred to nations where people of color predominate in the pejorative and said he'd prefer immigrants from Norway.

After the devastating Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico, killing several thousand and destroying huge swaths of property,

**By ANN MCFEATTERS**

Tribune News Service



Ann McFeatters is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may send her email at [amcfeatters@nationalpress.com](mailto:amcfeatters@nationalpress.com).

he called Puerto Ricans who criticized his administration's slow response "politically motivated ingrates."

He once referred to a Hispanic Miss Universe as "Miss House-keeping."

Time after time, through all these incidents—and many more, including the latest charges against Trump of flagrant, open racism—Republican leaders have defended him, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Ca. Fewer than four years ago, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-N.C., said Trump was a "race-baiting, xenophobic, religious bigot." Now he is one of Trump's most ardent defenders.

As a reminder, let's note the Republican Party was the party of Lincoln, the president who freed the slaves.

The bottom line is that each one of us must decide the issue of Trump's racism for ourselves in November of 2020. But to quote a cliche, if it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, quacks like a duck, it's a duck.

## I was told to 'Go Back to Africa.' Here's why I'm not going anywhere

**M**IAAMI—As an African American, I can't tell you the number of times I heard someone say to me, "Go back to Africa..."

It happened when I was a child, when passing motorists would yell from their car windows. It happened when I was a young adult, at my first job, and later as a maid in private homes. It even happened when I became a journalist.

Today, there's a new wave of racism aimed at not only me, but every American who looks like me. And it's coming from the White House, from the mouth of our president.

Like many of you, I was appalled when I read President Trump's tweet to the four congresswomen of color. As our leader, and the leader of the free world, I expect more from him.

President Trump has accused the congresswomen of "hating" America. How does he know that? Is it because he disagreed with something they said about America—which is their country?

On Tuesday, the House voted to condemn as racist President Trump's attacks, in a 240-187 vote, with four Republicans joining the unanimous Democrats and one independent in the rebuke. The four Republicans voting for the measure were: Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania, Fred Upton of Michigan, Will Hurd of Texas and Susan Brooks of Indiana, who is retiring.

Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., a civil rights icon, said he knows racism "when I see it." Lewis knows because it was racism that almost caused him to be beaten to death while marching for African American voting rights in Selma in 1965, on a day that would become known as "Bloody Sunday."

As Americans, Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan have a right to speak out about what makes America sick. They are in a good place to help heal America. It's their job.

Some people don't see anything wrong with President Trump's remarks. To me, they're like parents who uphold their children despite their wrongdoing.

Years ago, I wrote a column saying I don't like our national anthem. To me, "America the Beautiful" was a more fitting song, as it describes the beauty of our country—"the amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties, above the fruited plain."

"The Star Spangled Banner," meanwhile, talks of "bombs bursting" and war.

You should have seen the hate mail I received from that column.

Yet whenever I hear our anthem, I stand with my right hand over my heart, and sing the words with gusto. I do so because I love America.

There have also been times when I wrote about the ills of this

**By BEA L. HINES**

Miami Herald



country—racism, hatred, bullying, looking the other way when our leaders do something wrong.

Am I wrong for wanting America to be healed? In order to be healed, we must first recognize there is a problem. And dear friends, we have problems today in America.

This is why all freedom-loving Americans must stay vigilant.

If we don't, we can wake up tomorrow and the right to vote for African Americans can be taken away. We are not too far removed from the days of Jim Crow, the Freedom Marches, and the Birmingham Four—the four little black girls who died in a church bombing as they attended Sunday school on Sept. 15, 1963.

I can still see black men hanging from trees in the Deep South, lynched because somebody thought it was a good sport to torture and hang black men. And who can forget the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a man who lived the peaceful life he preached?

These were sad times in America.

Sadder still, is the fact that at 81 I have witnessed many acts of hate. This tells me that we must continue to be watchful, and that I must tell the story of the plight of blacks and other groups in this country for as long as I can.

It reminds me that, like my Jewish brethren, who must never forget the Holocaust, we must never forget what it was like in the Jim Crow days.

And whenever we see the ugly head of racism, we must call it out, even if it is our president who is fueling it.

So, Mr. President, will you tell me to "go back to Africa"?

I won't go because I am a sixth-generation American, whose great-great-grandmother was a slave.

I won't go because of all the black men (and women, too) who fought to keep this country free.

I won't go because I want to dignify all my ancestors who thought this country was worth dying for.

I won't go back to Africa simply because America is my home.

And I love it here.

## AMERICA

From Page 10

of the law, with salaries, badges and guns paid for by black citizens, beat and nearly killed him for fighting for the vote, for decent schools, for justice. Lewis and those who marched alongside him, some of whom gave their lives, were the true patriots, challenging America, clarifying its moral vision, one that is being tested.

Are those the bad old days Trump is imagining with his backward slogan of "Make America Great Again"? More importantly, is that tactic striking a chord with millions of Americans in the privacy of a voting booth, Americans who find the allure of tribe far more comforting than the vision of one America, messy in execution?

Using identity politics for their benefit worked for Trump and Republicans in 2016. Economic anxiety? That was the accepted reason offered for Trump's electoral success, ignoring the fact that black and brown folks, who suffer most when money and jobs are uncertain, for the most part did not fall for it. They could see who Trump was, always was, from the time he and his dad made their money throwing apartment applications from African Americans in the trash to his descending a gilded elevator to denounce Mexicans as rapists to tweets that would make David Duke proud.

Expect to see more and worse for 2020, attempts to paint the Democratic Party and all who represent it as un-American instead of the unruly bunch they are, suffering politically because they don't demand fealty to one idea or one person.

Trump has again revealed his character, shown himself to be the person we knew him to be.

But who are we?

## WHAT

From Page 10

miliar to anyone who's studied sex trafficking.

Sex trafficking is all about control, and power—which Epstein had in spades.

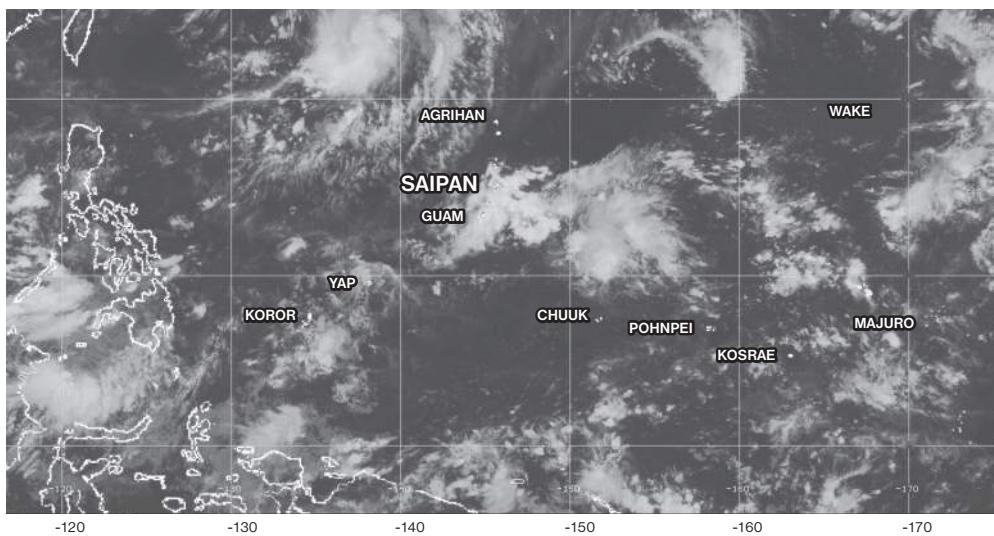
This case is complicated. It spans states and decades and includes dozens of witnesses and many potential accomplices. The courts will decide if Epstein is guilty. But in the meantime, the case against Epstein points the national spotlight on one of our society's most heinous crimes.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds becoming northeast around 10 mph in the afternoon.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
89°	78°	89°	78°	89°
78°	89°	78°	90°	78°
90°	90°	78°	90°	78°
78°	89°	78°	90°	78°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



## PICTURE TIME: 7:38 AM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The last few days have been rather dry once again. The radar presentation holds out some small hope that we will break that trend today, that still remains to be seen though. Rainfall through 7am has been underwhelming at 0.01 inches. A surface trough will be in the area for another day or two though, so even if we miss a wetting rain today, we could possibly get one Thursday or Friday. We are definitely moving toward wet season, we just haven't arrived yet. Marine conditions are benign, and pretty likely to stay that way for a pretty long time, or at least through the whole forecast period.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88°	/	80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83°	/	77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85°	/	79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86°	/	80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88°	/	76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88°	/	76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87°	/	81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Showers	57°	/	54°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	90°	/	73°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90°	/	82°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	88°	/	77°
London	Showers	81°	/	63°
Los Angeles	Sunny	88°	/	71°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88°	/	79°
Melbourne	Showers	54°	/	45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87°	/	80°
New York	Mostly Sunny	85°	/	71°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	90°	/	79°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	108°	/	73°
Busan	Thunderstorms	81°	/	75°
Rome	Sunny	97°	/	73°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	86°	/	66°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64°	/	55°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	81°	/	75°
Tokyo	Showers	86°	/	75°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	84°	/	68°



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
1:05 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.93
8:00 AM	LOW TIDE	0.81
1:39 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.51
7:24 PM	LOW TIDE	0.94

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Monday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:22 PM	-
Friday	12:26 AM	1:12 PM	-
Saturday	1:07 AM	2:05 PM	-
Sunday	1:53 AM	3:01 PM	-
Monday	2:43 AM	4:00 PM	-

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 5, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	4:00am	7:00am	3	7C3452	10:00pm	3:05am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3452	10:05pm	3:05am+1	4
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 3, 5	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5, 6, 7
7C3401	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7				
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7				
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ6							

# Business

## Poki-Yaki: Taste of Hawaii and Japan in a bowl

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

If you're a fan of poki and also has a soft spot for teriyaki, Poki-Yaki along Middle Road in Gualo Rai offers these traditional Hawaiian and Japanese dishes with a flair.

The name of the restaurant itself is derived from the two very tasty staples, according to Poki-Yaki owner Thorn Sablan.

"Poki-Yaki got its name simply from what we focus on serving—poki and teriyaki. We have a range of signature poki bowls, teriyaki bowls, and the people have the option to build their own bowl," he said.

An online source describes poki as diced raw fish served either as an appetizer or as a main course and is one of the main dishes of Native Hawaiian cuisine, while teriyaki is a



MARK RABAGO  
Poki-Yaki opened in August 2017 to satisfy the local community's need for a standalone poki and teriyaki establishment.

cooking technique used in Japanese cuisine in which food is broiled or grilled with a glaze of soy sauce, mirin, and sugar.

Poki-Yaki opened in August 2017 as a standalone poki and teriyaki establishment.

"We like to believe that Poki-Yaki is different because there hasn't been a restaurant on island that focuses on poki alone and we aim to give a healthy alternative with simple ingredients," Sablan said.

The restaurant's No. 1 best-seller "hands down," according to Sablan, is their California bowl.

Customers also seem to take a liking to Poki-Yaki's Pika bowl, Japanese bowl, and chicken teriyaki.

Aside from its popular build-your-own poki, Poki-Yaki has also gotten great reviews for its Poki-Rittos promotion every Thursday.

"It's basically a poki burrito and we have a bunch of regulars and customers coming in and calling to see if it's that day of the week already," said Sablan.

Most of Poki-Yaki's customers are to-go types. It also does deliveries for orders \$50 and over and they entertain re-

quest if an order is placed a day in advance or by 10am.

Like other businesses on island, Poki-Yaki hasn't been spared by the economic downturn currently gripping the Commonwealth but that hasn't affected the taste of Poki-Yaki's signature bowls.

Poki-Yaki is located along Middle Road in Gualo Rai, right next to Megabyte Saipan

and Eucon Medical Health Services. Business hours are from Monday to Friday 11am-2pm and 5pm-9pm and Saturday 11am-2pm. It is closed on Sundays. It can accommodate up to 26 dine-in customers. For advance orders or take out, call 233-YAKI. Deliveries can be ordered via email at pokiyaki@saipan@gmail.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The California bowl, Pika bowl, Japanese bowl, and chicken teriyaki are the dishes to try at Poki-Yaki.

### US economy dodges the threat of painful spending cuts

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The budget agreement that congressional leaders and President Donald Trump forged late Monday lifted a big potential drag on the U.S. economy for this year and next.

Under the agreement, the economy was spared from a series of deep spending cuts that were set to take effect under a far-reaching budget law enacted in 2011. Monday's agreement nullified those cuts and increased spending by \$320 billion over two years.

Still, that additional spending isn't expected to deliver a significant boost to the economy. That's because the \$320 billion figure is somewhat misleading. It's an increase compared with the deep cuts that would have been required under the 2011 law. But it's only a small gain compared with the current level of spending.

"It's not so much that it's a big boost, but it's a pain that was avoided," said Michael Pugliese, an economist at Wells Fargo Securities.

Like most economists, Pugliese hasn't revised his economic forecasts based on Monday's deal. He still expects economic growth to slip to 2.6% this year, a solid pace,

from 2.9% in 2018.

Still, the budget deal preserves the higher levels of federal spending that have helped support the economy under Trump as he prepares to seek re-election. The agreement also lifts the limit on the government's borrowing authority for two years, thereby avoiding a difficult battle that twice bedeviled the Obama administration and weighed on consumer sentiment and the financial markets.

Another duel over raising the debt ceiling ensued in 2013. Congressional Republicans sought to use it as leverage to delay the implementation of Obama's health care law.

"The budget fights have become less odious," said Joe Song, senior U.S. economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. "We're not threatening to breach the debt limit or have a government shutdown over it."

The 2011 debt ceiling battle led to an agreement between Congress and the White House that capped the levels of domestic and military spending. Subsequent laws breached those caps but not by much.

That changed in 2018. Congress and the White House agreed to a package that increased spending by \$300 billion over two years. After years of weighing on the economy, the government began to add to growth, particularly as it ramped up spending on military equipment.

### Bank of Hawaii now accepting grant applications for small businesses

Bank of Hawaii is now accepting applications for the I Kinoemti Para I Kumunidåt I Islå-ta Small Business Revitalization and Development Grant for projects that stimulate small business development and economic activity in Saipan. Small business owners with a successful track record in business operation or management and who have not yet been a recipient of the grant are invited to submit applications by Friday, Aug. 9, 2019. Five grants up to \$5,000 each will be awarded.

Bank of Hawaii established the grant program in 2012 to

promote new businesses and to encourage existing small businesses on the island of Saipan to expand.

If not already completed, grant awardees are required to successfully complete one of the following on or before Aug. 5, 2019:

■ CNMI Small Business Development Center small business training program

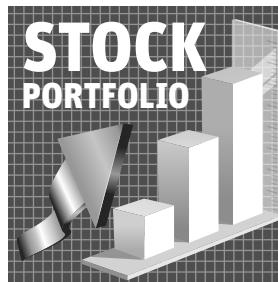
■ Bank of Hawaii Smart Money small business financial education training

Grant awardees are also expected to report to the bank on how the grant has made a difference to their business and the community

by Friday, Oct. 4, 2019.

Applications are available by contacting either the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center at <http://www.pacificsbdc.com/location-s/cwwwmni-sbdc>, Bank of Hawaii's Gualo Rai Branch or our Gualo Rai Branch Manager

Rose Sumor at [Rose.Sumor@boh.com](mailto:Rose.Sumor@boh.com) or (670) 237-2983. Applications should be submitted to: Branch Manager Rose Sumor via email at [Rose.Sumor@boh.com](mailto:Rose.Sumor@boh.com) or by regular mail to Bank of Hawaii, Springs Plaza, Chalan Pale Arnold, Saipan MP 96950 or PO Box 500566, Saipan MP 96950. (PR)



#### LEADING INDICATORS

**S&P**  
3,005.47  
+20.44  
+0.68%

**DOW**  
27,349.19  
+177.29  
+0.65%

**NASDAQ**  
8,251.40  
+47.27  
+0.58%

#### EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	1.43
	British Pound	0.80
	Canadian Dollar	1.31
	Chinese Yuan	6.76
	Euro	0.90

Hong Kong Dollar	7.81	Russian Ruble	63.20
Indian Rupee	68.33	Singapore Dollar	1.36
Indonesian Rupiah	13,800.63	South Korean Won	1,157.20
Malaysian Ringgit	4.07	Swiss Franc	0.99
New Zealand Dollar	1.49	Taiwan Dollar	30.56
Philippine Peso	50.25	Thailand Baht	30.86



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# Nation

## Trump puts his stamp on nation's immigration courts

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In just 2½ years, the Trump administration has put its stamp on the nation's immigration court system, appointing more than 4 in 10 judges while dramatically expanding the bench and issuing new rules that make it harder for migrants to win their cases and stay in the country.

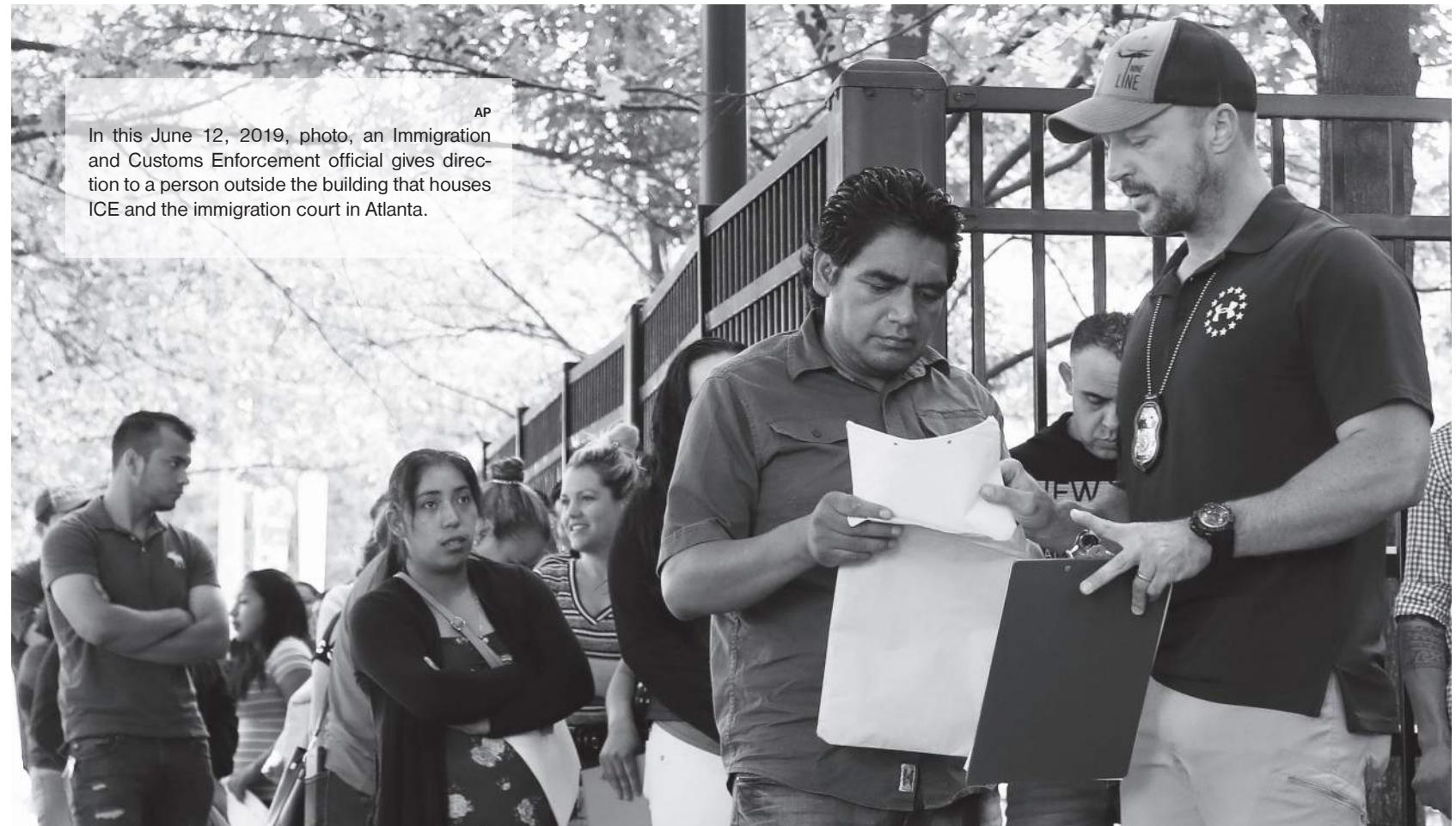
An Associated Press analysis shows that President Donald Trump's administration has appointed at least 190 immigration judges, accounting for 43 percent of the total.

The hires helped expand the immigration bench by more than 100 since September 2016; by comparison, President Barack Obama had a net gain of fewer than 50 judges from 2010 to 2016.

The AP analysis also found that Trump has continued a trend from past administrations in hiring large numbers of former military lawyers and Immigration and Customs Enforcement attorneys as judges. Nearly 1 in 5 sitting judges appointed under Trump was a military lawyer, and half previously worked for ICE.

The administration has ramped up staffing in a bid to reduce enormous delays in the overwhelmed immigration court system, which has nearly 900,000 cases. Immigrants seeking to stay in the country often wait years for a hearing, let alone a decision.

Critics say Trump's selections are no coincidence at



In this June 12, 2019, photo, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement official gives direction to a person outside the building that houses ICE and the immigration court in Atlanta.

a time when the president is trying hard to curtail immigration, especially for the tens of thousands of Central Americans arriving at the border in hopes of winning asylum.

"My thinking is they want to bring in people who they think have the professional experience that will lead them to interpret the law in the way the attorney general wants it to be interpreted, which is, basically, Central American domestic

violence and gang claims are not valid asylum claims," said Jeffrey Chase, a former immigration judge.

Immigration judges—who are employed by the Justice Department, not the judicial branch—make critical decisions about who gets asylum and green cards to stay in the United States and who must return to their home countries, shaping the lives of immigrants and their families and

the fate of Trump's crackdown.

The judges have been taking a harder line under Trump than in the previous administration, denying 65 percent of asylum cases during the 2018 fiscal year, compared with 55 percent two years earlier, according to data from the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University.

Last year, then-Attorney

General Jeff Sessions issued guidance narrowing the scope of asylum claims, though it was later blocked

by a judge. Other new rules set performance targets for judges and bar them from shelving cases.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Man with knife shot, wounded outside LA federal courthouse

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authorities say a man with a knife has been shot and wounded outside a federal courthouse in downtown Los Angeles. Los Angeles police say a courthouse security officer wounded the man, who was wielding the weapon Tuesday afternoon in front of the court on First Street. The man was shot in the hand and is expected to survive. No one else was injured. Details of the confrontation weren't immediately released. The FBI will investigate the shooting since it occurred on federal property.

#### Judge tosses lawsuit seeking to move Confederate monument

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—A Virginia judge has dismissed a lawsuit by activists which sought to force the city of Norfolk to move its 112-year-old Confederate monument. The Virginian-Pilot reports that Chief Judge Mary Jane Hall said in an 11-page order entered Tuesday that the plaintiffs failed to prove that their constitutional rights were being violated by the continued placement of the Confederate monument. The plaintiffs, Roy Perry-Bey and Ronald Green, sought to have the 80-foot (25-meter) monument moved

as the Norfolk City Council promised in a resolution passed in 2017. Perry-Bey called Hall's ruling "improper." After Perry-Bey and Green had filed their lawsuit, Norfolk City Attorney Bernard Pishko said in April that the city would challenge a state law which makes it illegal to move war monuments, including those dedicated to the Confederacy.

#### Southern California nest cam eagle flies for 1st time

BIG BEAR LAKE, Calif. (AP)—A young bald eagle that the public watched hatch online in a Southern California mountain nest has finally made its first flight. San Bernardino National Forest spokesman Zach Behrens says the juvenile male let out a call at 6:19 a.m. Tuesday and flew off screen. Bald eagles typically make an inaugural flight between 10 and 12 weeks of age, but this one waited until he was 14 weeks old. Forest Service biologist Robin Eliason says the bird will stay close to his parents over a few months to learn hunting skills and then will likely leave the area. The eagle's mother laid two eggs in the nest near Big Bear Lake in March and two eaglets hatched in April. The nest cam showed one eaglet died during a late winter storm on Memorial Day weekend.

## Immigration roundup that targeted 2,100 nets 35 arrests

WASHINGTON (AP)—An immigration enforcement operation that President Donald Trump said was part of an effort to deport "millions" of people from the United States resulted in 35 arrests, officials said Tuesday.

Trump billed the operation targeting families as a major show of force as the number of Central American families crossing the southern border has skyrocketed. There are about 1 million people in the U.S. with final deportation orders; the operation targeted 2,100.

Of those arrested, 18 were members of families and 17 were collateral apprehensions of people in the country illegally who were encountered by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers. None of those arrested resulted in the separation of family, officials said.

The effort was demonized by Democrats as a full-force drive to deport families and trumpeted by Republicans as a necessary show of force to

prove there are consequences for people coming here illegally. But career ICE officers described it as a routine operation, one expected to net an average of about 10% to 20% of targets.

A separate nationwide enforcement operation targeting immigrants here illegally who had criminal convictions or charges netted 899 arrests. And officers handed out 3,282 notices of inspection to businesses that may be employing people here illegally.

Acting ICE director Matthew Albence said the operations would be ongoing, stressing the importance of enforcement. "Part of the way you stop people from coming is having a consequence to the illegal activity when you do come," he said.

The operation targeted families centered on those who had been ordered deported by an immigration judge in 10 cities around the country who were subjected to fast-track proceedings.

But the overall publicity caused problems for an operation that relies largely on secrecy and surprise. Albence said the publicity made some officers targets, and they had to be pulled off.

In Chicago, even city officials got involved.

Part of the reason other, similar operations, were more successful is because they were "done without a lot of fanfare and media attention," Albence said. "That certainly, from an operational perspective, is beneficial."

Another factor was weather; operations were suspended in New Orleans because of the hurricane there.

And immigrant rights activists nationwide had the rare advantage of knowing when to expect increased immigration enforcement, and they pushed "know-your-rights" campaigns hard.

Any hint of ICE activity, including false alarms, brought out dozens of activists to investigate in several cities, including Houston, New York and Chicago. To inform the public, they used hotlines, text networks, workshops and social media and promoted a smartphone app that notifies family members in case of an arrest.

In Chicago, even city officials got involved.

# Asia

## Li Peng, Chinese premier during Tiananmen crackdown, dies

BEIJING (AP)—The legacy of former Chinese Premier Li Peng is reflected in modern China itself, where extended and broad-based economic growth is inextricably coupled with authoritarian political controls.

Li, who died Monday at 90, warned Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protesters in May 1989 that “the situation will not develop as you wish” a day before he announced martial law. And the pet project he pushed was the Three Gorges Dam, which displaced 1.3 million people and is now the world’s largest hydroelectric plant.

Official Chinese media made a rare and fleeting reference to the Tiananmen crackdown while eulogizing Li, who had an unspecified illness.

Li joined the majority of the leadership in taking “resolute measures to prevent turmoil, quell the counterrevolutionary riots and stabilize the domestic situation,” said part of the eulogy read Tuesday evening by a CCTV newscaster. “He played an important role in the great struggle that concerns the future and destiny of the party and the nation.”

Li was a keen political in-



AP  
In this Oct. 24, 2017, photo, former Chinese Premier Li Peng, places his hands around his neck during the closing session of China's 19th Party Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China.

fighter who spent two decades at the pinnacle of power before retiring in 2002. While broadly disliked by the public, he oversaw China’s reemergence from post-Tiananmen isolation to gain global diplomatic and economic clout, a devel-

opment he often celebrated in defiantly nationalistic public statements.

“Ridding themselves from the predicament of imperialist bullying, humiliation and oppression, the calamity-trodden Chinese people have since stood up,” Li said in a 1995 speech marking the anniversary of the Oct. 1, 1949, revolution that brought the ruling Communist Party to power.

One reminder of Li will likely stand for ages to come: During his final years in power, he pushed through approval for his pet project — the gargantuan Three Gorges Dam, which swallowed up cities and towns with its enormous reservoir and altered the Yangtze River ecology. Completed only in the past decade, it enabled shipping farther inland and the electricity capacity to power China’s economic growth.

A Sichuan province native,

Li became acting premier in November 1987 and triumphed in 1989 over pro-reform party leader Zhao Ziyang, who was toppled for sympathizing with the student protesters at Tiananmen Square.

“The situation will not develop as you wish and expect,” Li told student leaders in a confrontational meeting on May 18, 1989.

The next night, Li, flushed with anger, went on national television to announce martial law in Beijing.

“The anarchic state is going from bad to worse,” he said. “We are forced to take resolute and decisive measures to put an end to the turmoil.”

On the night of June 3-4, military troops invaded the city, killing hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of people to end the student occupation of Tiananmen Square.

Li stepped down as premier in 1998, becoming chairman of the National People’s Congress, China’s parliament. He retired from the party’s seven-member ruling Standing Committee in 2002 as part of a long-planned handover of power to a younger generation of leaders headed by Hu Jintao.

In his later years, Li rarely appeared in public, and was usually seen only at official gatherings aimed at displaying unity, such as the 80th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Liberation Army in 2007.

As his profile waned, he reportedly began lobbying older colleagues to support his children’s political ambitions. One of his two sons, Li Xiaopeng, was the governor of Shanxi province before becoming transport minister in 2016.

Li returned to the head-

### China says it won't rule out using force to reunify Taiwan

BEIJING (AP)—China said it will not renounce the use of force in efforts to reunify Taiwan with the mainland and vowed to take all necessary military measures to defeat “separatists.”

In a national defense white paper released Wednesday, China listed among its top priorities its resolve to contain “Taiwan independence” and combat what it considers separatist forces in Tibet and the far west region of Xinjiang.

The paper, published every few years, is an outline of China’s national defense policy. Wednesday’s report highlighted China’s “defensive” approach,

but also pledged to “surely counterattack if attacked.”

Defense Ministry spokesman Wu Qian said the threat of Taiwan separatism is growing and warned that those who are seeking Taiwan independence will meet a dead end.

“It anyone dares to separate Taiwan from China, the Chinese army will certainly fight, resolutely defending the country’s sovereign unity and territorial integrity,” Wu said.

Taiwan, a democratically-governed island, split from the Communist Party-ruled mainland China amid civil war in 1949. China maintains that Taiwan is part of its territory and

seeks “complete reunification.” The U.S. has repeatedly raised Beijing’s ire by selling arms to Taiwan. While the U.S. does not have formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan, U.S. law requires that it provide Taiwan with sufficient defense equipment and services for self-defense.

Earlier this month, the U.S. tentatively approved a sale of \$2.2 billion in arms to Taiwan — a proposal which had prompted China to threaten sanctions against the U.S. Taiwan’s defense ministry said it made the request in light of a growing military threat from China.

The white paper also point-

lines in 2010 when a Hong Kong publisher announced he had Li’s purported memoir on the Tiananmen Square crackdown. The publisher later halted the book’s release, claiming copyright problems, but supposed excerpts of the diaries were leaked online.

A cautious and uninspiring figure, Li was one of the few leaders to inspire real dislike among the nation’s masses, although he was said to encourage loyalty among his subordinates.

Born in October 1928 in the southwestern city of Chengdu, he was adopted by the late Premier Zhou Enlai after Li’s father, an early communist revolutionary, was killed by the rival Nationalists in 1931.

He shrugged off questions of nepotism, saying he was one of many war orphans cared for by Zhou and his wife. But he did say that “their ideals and moral influence had a profound influence on my upbringing.”

Li joined the Communist Party in 1945 after joining Zhou, Mao Zedong and others at their wartime guerrilla base of Yan’an in the northwest.

After spending six years as an engineering student in Moscow, Li worked as an engineer for a decade in northeastern China.

He was named director of the Beijing Electric Power Administration in 1966, and according to official biographies, was responsible for ensuring a stable power supply to Beijing and Tianjin during the chaos of the Cultural Revolution.

## Police: Indonesian couple carried out PH bombing

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Police said they believe an Indonesian husband and wife, who had taken part in a government deradicalization program, carried out the suicide bombing of a cathedral in the southern Philippines in January that killed more than 20 people.

Indonesia’s National Police spokesman Dedi Prasetyo told a news conference Tuesday that an Islamic militant arrested in East Kalimantan last month had confessed that he’d recruited Rullie Rian Zeke and his wife, Ulfah Handayani Saleh, for the Philippine bombing.

The arrested militant, identified only as Yoga, and the couple he recruited for the bombing were part of Jemaah Anshorut Daulah, a banned Islamic extremist organization in Indonesia that allies itself with the Islamic State group, according to police. Yoga also had contacts with IS militants in Afghanistan.

Prasetyo said Zeke and Saleh had previously failed in an attempt to reach Syria with their children, and af-

ter returning to Indonesia underwent a government deradicalization program before being released.

The couple’s alleged role in the bombing of the Roman Catholic cathedral in Jolo highlights links between militants across Southeast Asia. Authorities are concerned about Indonesian, Malaysian and Philippine citizens who joined IS in Syria and Iraq returning home and carrying out attacks in Southeast Asia.

The Indonesians’ involvement in the cathedral attack was initially suspected from the interrogations of five militants caught by authorities in the Philippines after the bombings who described their accents and habits, Prasetyo said.

Some Indonesian militants had tried to reach Afghanistan after the defeat of IS in Syria and Iraq, Prasetyo said, including a man arrested in a Jakarta satellite city who planned a suicide bombing during protests in May against the results of Indonesia’s presidential election.

BEIJING (AP)—China said it will not renounce the use of force in efforts to reunify Taiwan with the mainland and vowed to take all necessary military measures to defeat “separatists.”

In a national defense white paper released Wednesday, China listed among its top priorities its resolve to contain “Taiwan independence” and combat what it considers separatist forces in Tibet and the far west region of Xinjiang.

The paper, published every few years, is an outline of China’s national defense policy. Wednesday’s report highlighted China’s “defensive” approach,

but also pledged to “surely counterattack if attacked.” The U.S. has repeatedly raised Beijing’s ire by selling arms to Taiwan. While the U.S. does not have formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan, U.S. law requires that it provide Taiwan with sufficient defense equipment and services for self-defense.

Earlier this month, the U.S. tentatively approved a sale of \$2.2 billion in arms to Taiwan — a proposal which had prompted China to threaten sanctions against the U.S. Taiwan’s defense ministry said it made the request in light of a growing military threat from China.

China’s military expansion in recent years has prompted concerns among other Pacific countries in a region long dominated by the U.S. Navy.

# World

## Boris Johnson chosen as new UK leader, now faces Brexit test

**LONDON** (AP)—Boris Johnson, Britain's blustering Brexit campaigner, was chosen as the U.K.'s next prime minister on Tuesday, with a resounding mandate from the Conservative Party but conflicting demands from a politically divided country.

Johnson is set to become prime minister on Wednesday after winning an election to lead the governing Conservatives. He will have just over three months to make good on his promise to lead the U.K. out of the European Union by Oct. 31.

Famed for his bravado, quips in Latin and blond mop of hair, Johnson easily defeated Conservative rival Jeremy Hunt, winning two-thirds of the votes of about 160,000 party members across the U.K. He will become prime minister once Queen Elizabeth II formally asks him to form a government, replacing Theresa May.

The embattled May announced her resignation last month after Parliament repeatedly rejected the withdrawal agreement she struck with the 28-nation bloc, leaving Britain stranded in Brexit limbo. The U.K.'s departure from the EU was delayed from its long-scheduled exit in March.

Johnson radiated optimism in a brief victory speech to hundreds of party members and lawmakers, pledging to "deliver Brexit, unite the country and defeat Jeremy Corbyn," leader of the opposi-



• Born June 19, 1964, New York City, New York, U.S.

- 1989-94: Johnson began working for The Daily Telegraph and later as an assistant editor.
- 1994: Johnson became a political columnist for The Spectator, and in 1999 he was named the magazine's editor, continuing in that role until 2005.

- 2001-2008, 2015-16: Johnson served as a Conservative member of Parliament.

- 2008: Johnson was elected mayor of London. In 2012 Johnson was reelected mayor and served until 2016.

- 2016: Johnson became the leading spokesman for the "Leave" campaign (Brexit).

- 2016-18: Johnson served as Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, appointed by Theresa May.

- 2019: Johnson wins race to become the next prime minister of Britain's governing Conservative Party.

Source: AP, britannica.com  
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Boris Johnson gestures as he speaks after being announced as the new leader of the Conservative Party in London, Tuesday, July 23, 2019.

tion Labour Party.

"I say to all the doubters: 'Dude, we are going to energize the country, we are going to get Brexit done,'" said Johnson, a former London mayor and British foreign secretary.

In a sign he hopes to move beyond the largely white, male and affluent Conservative Party members who chose him as their leader, Johnson's office said he will put together a "Cabinet for modern Britain," with a record number of ethnic-minority lawmakers.

Hunt, a stolid politician compared to the flamboyant

Johnson, said he was sure his rival would "do a great job."

"He's got optimism, enthusiasm, he puts a smile on people's face and he has total, unshakable confidence in our amazing country," said Hunt, who is likely to be removed as foreign secretary by the new prime minister.

Johnson wooed Conservatives by promising to succeed where May had failed and lead the U.K. out of the EU—with or without a divorce deal.

Johnson insists he can get the EU to renegotiate, something the bloc insists it won't do. If not, he says Britain must

leave the EU by the Oct. 31 deadline, "come what may."

The EU is adamant that the deal with May will stand, saying Britain has to take it or leave it.

Michel Barnier, the bloc's chief Brexit negotiator, said he looked forward "to working constructively" with the new Conservative leader "to facilitate the ratification of the Withdrawal Agreement."

Economists warn that a no-deal Brexit would disrupt

### Opposition rallies as Venezuela blackout eases in some areas

**CARACAS, Venezuela** (AP)—Venezuela's opposition on Tuesday sought to harness anger over a massive blackout that deepened hardship nationwide, but turnout at a Caracas demonstration was relatively modest as many Venezuelans despair of an imminent solution to their plight.

Lights came back on in parts of the capital and other areas of Venezuela overnight following a nearly nine-hour outage that the government blamed on an "electromagnetic attack" against the power grid, without providing any evidence. Government opponents say years of mismanagement and corruption were to blame.

Electricity supply remained unstable in many regions. The blackout knocked out communications and the Caracas metro on Monday, forcing commuters to walk home or hustle for a spot on packed buses. The metro remained out of operation Tuesday.

The scenes in the capital

were familiar, even though Caracas has been mostly spared the debilitating power cuts that persisted in other parts of the country after nationwide outages in March. The latest blackout didn't make much difference to people with scarce power in Maracaibo, Venezuela's second-largest city.

Maritza Arámbula, a Maracaibo resident, said she was tired of a government that makes "excuses" and an opposition continually seeking support from Venezuela's exhausted citizens.

"We need solutions, not promises," Arámbula said. "Not having light makes me sick."

In Caracas, the opposition-led congress held a session in a main square to try to keep pressure on the government of President Nicolás Maduro, who has defied U.S.-led efforts to oust him. Opposition leader Juan Guaidó appeared in front of bunting in the colors of the Venezuelan flag—red, blue

and yellow—and said, as he often has in the past, that the government he calls a "dictatorship" is crumbling.

"We have to win," he said.

At the gathering, the congress approved Venezuela's return to the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, a U.S.-led defense pact that could provide political cover for greater international involvement in the nation's crisis. However, Maduro's government was not expected to heed the opposition move.

In addition to congress deputies, hundreds of other people attended the event, a smaller crowd than the throngs that poured into the streets in January when Guaidó declared he was interim president and that Maduro's 2018 re-election was a sham. Some activists said the turnout was low because public transport wasn't available, though opposition demonstrations in Caracas have diminished in size over several months.

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—

Stay-at-home mom Maryam Alidadi used to lead a comfortable middle-class life. The 35-year-old and her husband, a mechanic, could afford a spacious rental apartment in a central neighborhood of Tehran, along with a car, occasional restaurant meals and holidays abroad.

Now they are barely hanging on, even after drastically cutting spending.

Like most Iranians, the family was hit hard by the collapse of the national currency, accelerating inflation and eroding wages—fallout from unprecedented U.S. sanctions.

Perhaps most devastating for Iran's large middle class has been the sharp spike in housing prices, more than double in a year. That has uprooted tenants and made home ownership unattainable for most.

The Alidadi family sold their car and borrowed from friends and family to buy a smaller apartment in a less desirable area on the outskirts of Tehran—in hindsight a smart move, since they've been

priced out of their old neighborhood by now.

"Right now, this is the most difficult period ever," said Alidadi's 58-year-old mother, Shahla Allahverdi, reflecting on the Islamic Republic's 40-year history as she shared a park bench with her daughter.

Iranians worry about the future as tensions between Iran and the West continue to rise.

The escalation—triggered by the Trump administration's withdrawal last year from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers—seems unstoppable, and European mediators trying to defuse the situation keep coming up short.

The showdown between Washington and Tehran has upended the lives of Iranians as they try to survive on less. A bride borrowed a wedding dress because she couldn't afford to buy or even rent one. More newlyweds move in with their families to save money. Visa requests are up at foreign embassies, with young Iranians eager to leave.

Some wonder how far

trade and plunge the U.K. into recession. Fears that Britain is inching closer to crashing out of the bloc weighed on the pound once again Tuesday. The currency was down another 0.3 percent at \$1.2450, nearly a two-year low.

Carolyn Fairbairn, director of the Confederation of British Industry, said businesses needed a withdrawal agreement with the EU to restore confidence that has been badly shaken by uncertainty about the terms of Brexit.

"On Brexit, the new prime minister must not underestimate the benefits of a good deal," she said.

Johnson faces a host of other challenges, from dealing with Iran's seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker to forging a relationship with U.S. President Donald Trump, but Brexit is his overriding problem.

Trump was scathing about May's inability to achieve a Brexit deal and has said Johnson will do a better job.

On Tuesday he said Johnson "is going to do a good job" and "will get it done."

"We have a really good man is going to be prime minister of the U.K. now, Boris Johnson," Trump told a youth conference. "Good man. He's tough and he's smart. They say 'Britain Trump,' they call him Britain Trump, and people say that's a good thing."

### US sanctions squeeze Iran middle class, upend housing sector

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—

Stay-at-home mom Maryam

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priced out of their old neighborhood by now.

Washington is willing to push its "maximum pressure" campaign.

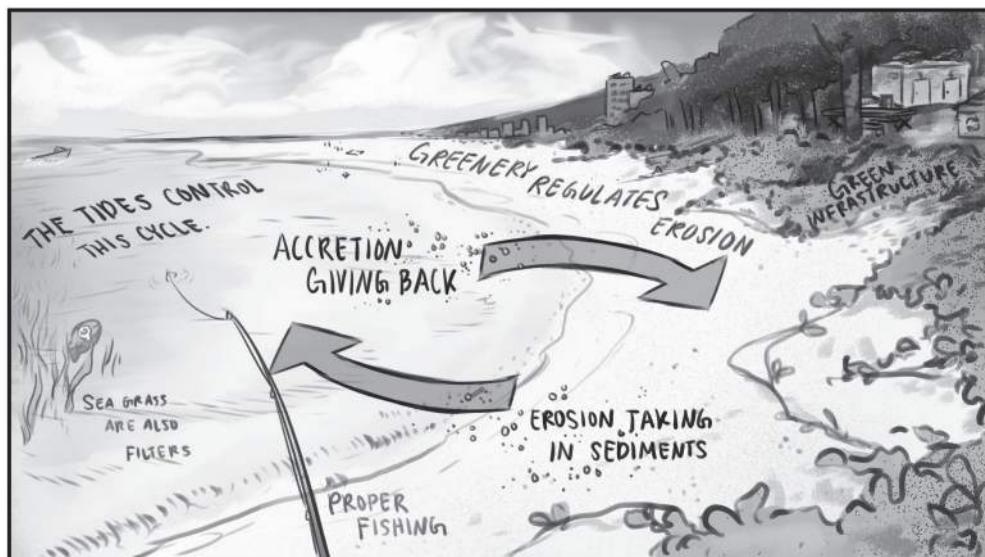
The Trump administration says the sanctions are aimed at getting Iran to renegotiate the nuclear deal, which offered sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on Iran's nuclear program.

Washington denies its ultimate aim is to end the rule of Shiite Muslim clerics—though John Bolton, an architect of the pressure campaign, called for regime change before he became Trump's national security adviser.

Some say Washington's actions appear to have strengthened the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard and other hard-liners at the expense of President Hassan Rouhani, once the nuclear deal's most prominent champion.

The Guard has been able to deepen its role in the economy, domestic politics and foreign policy under the guise of security, said Ellie Geranmayeh, a senior fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations.

# Environment



NATURAL EROSION



UNNATURAL EROSION

Everyone enjoys a day out at the beach. It is always a pleasure to walk along a clean corridor of white sandy beach. Hedged between a row of native trees and grassy vegetation on one side and a vast ocean on the other, it forms a natural harbor. The connection between the land and the sea is a valuable and sacred place. Shorelines are far more than just beaches, places to build sand castles, or go shell hunting. It is home to diverse marine and terrestrial wild plants and animals. It is a living ecosystem that shapes the landscape that we know today as beaches, shorelines, or coastal areas. Perhaps just as important, a place where we nurture ourselves, our family, our community, and our heritage. We view beaches or shorelines as a place for family gatherings, festival events, near-shore fishing, a place where important rituals or traditional ceremonies are performed, or the beginning and the end of a long and tiring oceanic navigation. To the natural environment, it is simply home.

Unfortunately, today, our beaches and shoreline areas are at risk of degradation due to bad practices of human-induced activities, such as unpermitted and poorly designed developments, poorly regulated recreational activities, and ongoing bad practices of apathetic beach users. Beach erosion is also another negative effect of shoreline degradation. However, erosion does occur naturally with waves and currents affected by climate change.

Community-wise, we can do our part in ensuring healthier shorelines by preventing or avoiding the uprooting or trampling of shoreline vegetation, proper disposal of debris and trash, and increase support for better regulations for coastal developments such as minimizing negative effects of a construction proj-

antee a healthier island. One critical process of our island is naturally occurring erosion. Erosion only becomes detrimental to human built environments when eroding beaches threaten infrastructure. Natural erosion is when sediment is removed from our beaches in a slow and steady pace, with accretion (the gaining of sand) countering that. It's this cycle that we must not disrupt to the best of our abilities. A few ways we can maintain stable shorelines is by not harvesting coastal vegetation, creating permeable parking lots (which decrease surface water runoff), being mindful of where we park our vehicles, and picking up litter whenever you travel to our beautiful white sand beaches. Keeping our shorelines happy and healthy boils down to responsible use. Together, we can work towards better managing our coastal resources.

DCRM's mission is to protect and enhance the CNMI's coastal resources for residents and visitors through effective and adaptive resource management, interagency collaboration, and stakeholder engagement, in a manner that builds and sustains community resilience and well-being.

If you are proposing a project or activity within the Shoreline APC, please apply for a coastal permit at the BECQ-DCRM, Permitting Section, Gualo Rai Center, Suite 303, Middle Road, Lower Gualo Rai, or call Permitting Section at 664-8300 for more information.

## WHERE'S THE BEACH? DCRM Area of Particular Concern: SHORELINES

By CERIEJAN F. MANGUBAT  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE



### WORDS TO KNOW:

**Shorelines**—the geographic area of particular concern consisting of the area between the high tide line or edge of a shoreline 150 feet inland on the islands of the Northern Mariana Islands chain.

ect, teaching our children best practices while at the beach, replanting of vegetation and trees along the shorelines, volunteer for a beach cleanup, or bringing your trash home after a picnic at the beach.

The current health status of our shorelines can be viewed on DCRM's website under the 2018 Saipan Shoreline Access and Shoreline Enhancement Assessment (SASEA). The

beaches are rated from high, medium and low risk based on the balanced scale of human interaction and shoreline health. An example of this assessment process: if the vegetation to a shoreline has been degraded because of human involvement (construction or the removing of plants), then it becomes necessary to reduce our interaction. This can be seen at the Kilili Beach (for-

mer Civic Center), in which constant vehicular traffic compacts the soil and eventually is unable to support its vegetation (Issue G, SASEA, 2018). The only time it is necessary to remove beach vegetation is when it becomes overgrown and hinders public access. Vegetation removal must adhere to certain criteria to ensure shoreline stability. An example of regulated veg-

etation removal is the Quartermaster Area (Red Beach) where vegetative growth spread near the water line (Issue F, SASEA, 2018).

Shorelines within "high risk" tiers usually have high levels of human activity and erosion with little to no plant life. Therefore, understanding of the processes to our environment is another step for our communities to guar-

Cerjean F. Mangubat is a student at the Northern Marianas College and currently serves as a summer intern with the Division of Coastal Resources Management. This article is the second of a short series that discusses the significance of DCRM's areas of particular concern (APCs) and why these resources are subject to special management standards.

# Life & Style

## Ariana Grande and Taylor Swift score 10 MTV VMA nominations

NEW YORK (AP)—Ariana Grande and Taylor Swift are the top contenders at the 2019 MTV Video Music Awards, each scoring 10 nominations.

MTV announced Tuesday that Grande and Swift will compete in eight of the same categories, including video of the year. Swift's gay pride anthem "You Need to Calm Down" and Grande's breezy hit about her breakups "thank u, next" are nominated for the top prize alongside Billie Eilish's "Bad Guy," Lil Nas X and Billy Ray Cyrus' "Old Town Road," 21 Savage and J. Cole's "A Lot," and Jonas Brothers' "Sucker."

Eilish, 17, came in second with nine nominations, including artist of the year. Other nominees are Grande, Cardi B, Shawn Mendes, Halsey and Jonas Brothers.

Lil Nas X, whose "Old Town Road" tied the record for most weeks at No. 1 with



16 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart this week, earned eight nominations.

The 2019 VMAs will take

place at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey, on Aug. 26. Post Malone was surprisingly snubbed: He re-

ceived zero nominations despite dominating on streaming services, radio and the Billboard charts in the last year.

This combination photo shows singers Ariana Grande at the 13th annual Billboard Women in Music event in New York on Dec. 6, 2018, left, and Taylor Swift at the Time 100 Gala in New York on April 23, 2019.

Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper's Oscar- and Grammy-winning hit "Shallow" picked up two nominations: song of the year and best collaboration. Boy band BTS earned four nominations, including a bid in the new best K-pop category.

And late rapper Nipsey Hussle, who posthumously won best male hip-hop artist and the Humanitarian Award at last month's BET Awards,

picked up a nomination for best hip hop for "Higher," his song and video with DJ Khaled and John Legend.

Swift will drop her album, "Lover," three days before the VMAs on Aug. 23, making it likely that she will attend and possibly perform at the show. Scooter Braun, who now owns Swift's music catalog, will likely be in attendance, too: He manages top nominee Grande as well as Justin Bieber, who earned a nomination for best collaboration with Ed Sheeran for "I Don't Care."

Comedian and actor Sebastian Maniscalco will host the 2019 VMAs. Fan-voting begins Tuesday at [vma.mtv.com](http://vma.mtv.com).

### 'Art of Self-Defense' examines, satirizes toxic masculinity

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Director Riley Stearns says he didn't realize he was making a perfect movie for 2019 when he started writing "The Art of Self-Defense" four years ago.

But his darkly comedic riff on toxic masculinity starring Jesse Eisenberg as a timid and "weak" man who takes up karate just kept becoming more relevant. The Harvey Weinstein allegations broke during the shoot in 2017 and the #MeToo movement became a phenomenon.

"It was kind of weird that this idea that I had been feeling was very personal to me was really starting to spread into a direct discussion," Stearns said. "More and more people are relating to the film in ways that I originally wouldn't have intended, which is hugely humbling and very interesting to see."

"The Art of Self-Defense" is currently in 540 theaters nationwide, where it's finding a healthy audience amid all the flashier blockbusters and superhero films in the multiplex.

Eisenberg's character Casey Davies is mocked even for his "feminine" sounding name. After getting brutally beaten one night by a horde of masked motorcyclists, he stumbles on a local dojo run by an over-the-top alpha played by Alessandro Nivola and signs up for classes. And things take an unexpectedly dark turn.

"There's an absurdity to him because he's timid in such an extreme way and aggressive in such an extreme way," Eisenberg said.

"Casey is a product of this very unusual world. As much as I loved the character I also loved the world he exists in which is a world where people speak in this very unusual, blunt, earnest way."

Imogen Poots plays the film's sole main female character, an instructor at the dojo who despite all her skills has not been promoted to black belt. Stearns did this knowingly, but also made a concerted effort to make sure his below the line team was predominantly women.

"It's a film about men, starring men, written by a man. Everything about it was so overtly masculine, which I knew, I was making fun of it, but still at the end of the day was not going to be on the side of films passing the Bechdel Test," Stearns said. "My intent then was to say, let's find the best people for the job to take on these department head jobs but also really try to focus on finding the best women for the jobs as well, to really try to counteract that. I just knew I didn't want it to be a set full of men. It was really important for me to have that female perspective."

Both Stearns and Eisenberg see some of the changes happening in the industry as many wake up to the injustices women have been subject to for too long. Soon after filming "The Art of Self-Defense," Eisenberg found himself on the set of "The Hummingbird Project," with Salma Hayek and Erika Rosenbaum, who both allege Weinstein sexually harassed them.

## Miss America pageant leaving Atlantic City for Connecticut

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—There she is. Here she isn't.

Miss America is leaving Atlantic City for the second time, trading one casino town for another in a move that caps a whirlwind of change at the nearly century-old pageant.

This year's pageant will be held at the Mohegan Sun Connecticut in Uncasville, Connecticut, the Miss America Organization said Tuesday.

It will be broadcast on NBC on Dec. 19, in a switch from recent broadcaster ABC.

"The Miss America Organization is proud to partner with Mohegan Sun as we return

to our longtime NBC home," said Regina Hopper, president and CEO of the Miss America Organization.

"We are looking forward to a fresh take on this historic competition that will showcase the incredible women vying for the job of Miss America 2020."

Ray Pineault, president and general manager of Mohegan Sun, noted the college scholarship money the Miss America Organization provides to contestants.

"Miss America is a storied organization that has a long history of empowering women, providing tremendous educational resources to women

and serving the overall public good," he said.

"We're thrilled to be hosting an impactful event like the Miss America Competition in December, and we look forward to working with both Miss America and NBC on what will be a tremendous evening," he said.

The broadcast will be on a Thursday evening from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Eastern time, a departure from its longstanding fixture as a Sunday night event.

Announcements by the Miss America Organization and NBC mentioned only this year's competition and did not address whether the pageant's history.

## NowThis videos make business of tweaking Fox News

NEW YORK (AP)—Some of the day's most pointed media criticism lets its subjects do the talking.

The news outlet NowThis has attracted attention with videos that illustrate inconsistencies by Fox News personalities, like one posted Tuesday that contrasts the news network's treatment of Michelle Obama with her successor as first lady, Melania Trump.

Clips show Fox commentators criticizing Michelle Obama's wardrobe, saying she needed to drop a few pounds and calling her the "merchant of death." Meanwhile, Melania Trump is called stunning, spectacular and "a woman of strength who should be revered."

Back-to-back clips show Fox's Dana Perino suggesting that Michelle Obama gets a pass from criticism and, at another point, saying "she's car-



This combination photo shows former first lady Michelle Obama, left, and current first lady Melania Trump.

rying a bag that costs \$1,200 and nobody said a thing."

"You can't dispute video when you see the hypocrisy very directly," said Athan Stephanopoulos, NowThis' president.

Fox, for its part, pointed out that NowThis was founded by

and is aimed at an under-30 audience, distributing videos that are most often viewed on social media. Since the dawn of the Trump administration, NowThis has increased its focus on the media.

In recent weeks, NowThis has distributed videos that criticized NBC News for not including more questions on climate change in the first Democratic presidential debate, and for the propensity of many news outlets to soften coverage of sex offender Jeffrey Epstein through use of the term "underage women." One memorably creative piece took clips from Sinclair Broadcasting affiliates that showed newscasters across the country reading from the same script.

The Fox videos, more than a dozen of them, have made the biggest splash.

# Stars to frame global poverty issues in new NatGeo series

## Another son says he should guide Aretha Franklin estate

**PONTIAC, Mich.** (AP)—Aretha Franklin's sons disagree about who should manage what could be a multimillion-dollar estate.

Attorneys for Theodore White II last week told a Michigan judge in a court filing that White should be named co-executor, or personal representative, along with Franklin's niece, Sabrina Owens.

Owens has had that role since the singer's death last year, when a will couldn't be found. The subsequent dis-

covey of handwritten wills has left control of the estate uncertain.

A 2014 document shows Franklin chose son Kecalf Franklin as the representative. The names of White and Owens were crossed out, although the pair appeared in a 2010 handwritten will.

White doesn't believe Franklin crossed out the names. A judge on Aug. 6 will consider a request to have a handwriting expert examine the documents.

## Gordon Ramsay denounces chefs who snub Michelin guide honors

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.** (AP)—Gordon Ramsay has harsh words for chefs who reject Michelin stars.

The famously profane Ramsay used an expletive to describe giving back a star rating. He said the guide's mark of distinction belongs to a restaurant, not a chef.



AP  
Chef Gordon Ramsay participates in National Geographic's "Gordon Ramsay: Uncharted" panel at the Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour on Tuesday, July 23, 2019, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

It's an insult to Michelin and a mark against those who claim that stars impose fiscal and creative burdens on an eatery, the British celebrity chef said Tuesday.

Ramsay said a chef's failure to parlay the hard-won recognition into greater success is on them.

Ramsay said he prizes the three Michelin stars, the top ranking, long held by his self-named London restaurant.

al poverty.

The series is being done with Global Citizen, a group whose aim is to eradicate extreme poverty and its root problems through advocacy and activism.

Titled "Activate: The Global Citizen Movement,"

**CHICAGO** (AP)—A spokesman for R. Kelly has stepped down after he went on national television to talk about the federal sex-crime charges against the singer and said he wouldn't allow his adult daughter to be alone with anyone "accused of being a pedophile."

Kelly's attorney, Steve

Greenberg, says in a statement that Darrell Johnson is taking time off for personal reasons. The statement doesn't mention the comments Johnson made Monday on "CBS This Morning."

### SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

#### B.B. King's 'Lucille' guitar going up for auction

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Her name was "Lucille," and in B.B. King's hands she gave voice to the "King of the Blues." Julien's Auctions announced Tuesday that King's black Gibson ES-345 prototype guitar is among the items from his estate that will go up for bid on Sept. 21. Julien's says Gibson gave King the instrument for his 80th birthday. The headstock has "B.B. King 80" and a crown inlaid with mother-of-pearl. The guitar is estimated to be worth \$80,000 to \$100,000. The guitar was not the first to bear the name. The story goes that King first used that moniker for a guitar he rescued from a fire while he was playing an Arkansas club in 1949. The blaze broke out as two men fought over a woman, and the musician narrowly escaped death after he went back into the club to save his guitar, the auction house said. When King learned the woman's name was Lucille, he named his guitar after her "to remind

the program follows Common as he fights for criminal justice reform. Chopra Jonas campaigns to break down barriers to girls' education, and Jackman works on the group's New York City concert. Other featured celebs include Becky G, Uzo Aduba

and Usher.

Digital hubs on NatGeo.com and GlobalCitizen.org will offer more information on the issues highlighted in the docuseries, which includes Procter & Gamble as a partner.

The six-part show debuts Sept. 5.

Kelly has been in custody since being indicted this month on charges in Chicago and New York. He's accused of having sex with minors and trying to cover up the crimes.

himself to never fight over a woman or run into a burning building," the auction house said. The National Medal of Arts that President George H.W. Bush presented to King in 1990 is also up for auction. So are his touring van, jewelry and clothing. The 15-time Grammy winner was 89 when he died in 2015.

#### Lifetime to follow up on 'Surviving R. Kelly' docu-series

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.** (AP)—Lifetime is still invested in the R. Kelly case. The network announced Tuesday that it has ordered "Surviving R. Kelly: The Aftermath," a four-part series that includes interviews with new survivors and experts on the case. "Surviving R. Kelly" was a six-part series that premiered last January. An estimated 12.8 million people watched the series, nominated for an Emmy, that revisited old allegations and brought new ones into the spotlight. Kelly has been in custody since being indicted this month on charges in Chicago and New York. He's

accused of having sex with minors and trying to cover up the crimes. He maintains his innocence. Lifetime will also produce "Surviving Jeffrey Epstein," about the New York financier accused of sex crimes with minors and trafficking.

#### Country star Thomas Rhett announces 3rd daughter on the way

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—Country singer Thomas Rhett will have a trio of daughters as he announced on social media that his wife is pregnant with another girl. Rhett on Tuesday posted a photo of his other two daughters, Willa Gray and Ada James, posing with their hands on his wife Lauren Akins' belly. He added that he was "excited to share that I will now be paying for 3 weddings." Rhett, who won male artist of the year twice at the Academy of Country Music Awards, often writes about his wife and family on his hit country songs including "Die A Happy Man" and "Life Changes."

## A career in law enforcement is likely to upset former cop

**D**EAR ABBY: How should I tell my father that I have chosen a career he never wanted me to consider? I plan to become a police officer. Abby, all my life I have felt the call to help people. I know a career in law enforcement brings with it the possibility of danger, especially in today's climate. But I have always known I would be the person running toward danger while everyone else is running away from it. I am passionate about this, and my wife fully supports it.

The issue is, my father was a police officer. He hated every minute of it. He has always said he never wanted me to take that path. I understand all he wants is to keep me safe. At the same time, I don't want to miss out on this career. I don't want to spend the rest of my life regretting that I didn't follow my heart and do something I know I would have success with. Should I go through with the testing and, if I am selected, tell him then? Please help, because this is keeping me up at night.

FOLLOWING MY HEART

**DEAR FOLLOWING:** Your father loves you, but he cannot—and should not—dictate how you live your life. A career in law enforcement is not for everyone for the reason you mentioned. It would have been helpful if you had

explained exactly what it was about policing that made him hate it, assuming that he told you.

**When he finds out, expect him to be very upset and possibly angry about your choice. But I see no reason why you should upset him before finding out if you qualify for a job in law enforcement. If you do pass the exams, give him the news then.**

**DEAR ABBY:** My sister-in-law recently asked me for parenting advice. Our kids are about the same age, and she has been having issues with her preschooler's behavior that I don't have with my son.

Abby, the reason her kid is out of control is she and her husband don't give him any limits. They don't believe in saying "no" and try instead to "guide him to positive choices." They never discipline him, even when he hits or screams at them, and as a result, he's mean and disrespectful. Little kids are uncomfortable with that much freedom.

Even though she asked, I don't think my sister-in-law really wants my advice, at least not the advice I would like to give her. So what do I say when she asks? It's clear they need help, but I'm judgmental and probably not a good messenger. I tried loaning her a parenting book I've used, but it didn't take.

PARENTING ADVICE IN CANADA

## DEAR ABBY

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

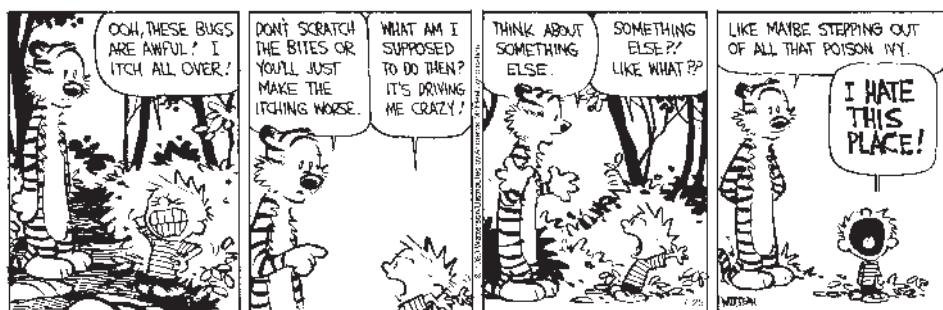


**DEAR P.A.: Your sister-in-law may simply be venting her frustration when she dumps on you. When she asks for advice again, tell her that because you haven't faced the problems she's encountering, you don't feel "qualified" to advise her. Then suggest she ask her pediatrician for guidance.**

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



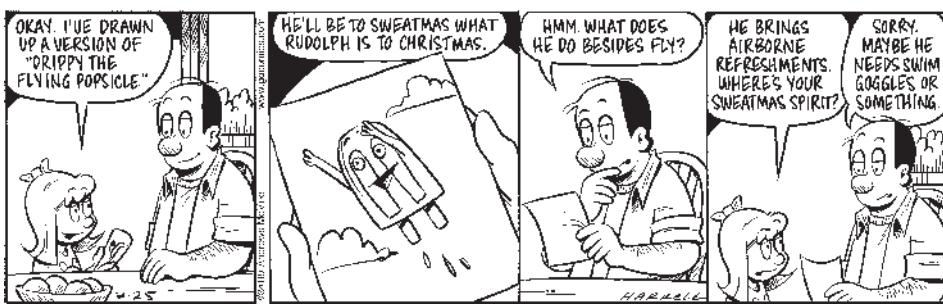
By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®



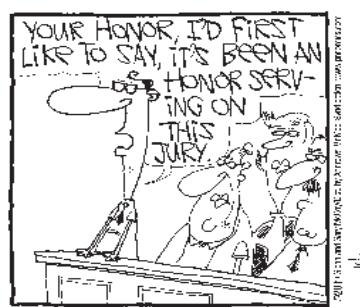
By Jim Davis

## Adam@home

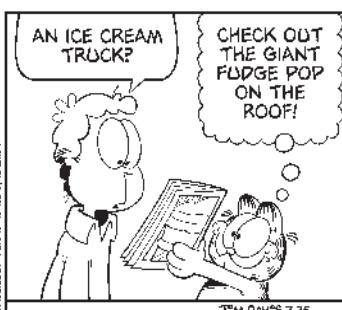


By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	44	Easter flowers	2	Wife of Adam	22	Out of control	23	Camp bed	27	Highland hat	29	One of the faithful	30	Skin soother	31	Gratuities	33	Placate	35	Guy's date	38	Slithery fish	40	"You can count on me!"	43	Striped cat	45	Half of CIV	46	Singer Feliciano	47	Met solo	48	TiVo	49	Micro-wave, slangily	50	NASA moon craft	54	Diplomat's res.	55	King, in Cannes																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
1	Gun the engine	44	Easter flowers	2	Wife of Adam	22	Out of control	23	Camp bed	27	Highland hat	29	One of the faithful	30	Skin soother	31	Gratuities	33	Placate	35	Guy's date	38	Slithery fish	40	"You can count on me!"	43	Striped cat	45	Half of CIV	46	Singer Feliciano	47	Met solo	48	TiVo	49	Micro-wave, slangily	50	NASA moon craft	54	Diplomat's res.	55	King, in Cannes																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
4	Ex-quarter-back Tony	45	Olympic spear	3	Truthfulness	24	Control	25	Camp bed	26	Highland hat	28	One of the faithful	29	Skin soother	30	Gratuities	32	Placate	34	Guy's date	36	Slithery fish	38	"You can count on me!"	39	Striped cat	41	Half of CIV	42	Singer Feliciano	43	Met solo	44	TiVo	46	Micro-wave, slangily	47	NASA moon craft	48	Diplomat's res.	49	King, in Cannes																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
12	"had it!"	56	Round Table	5	Fib	46	Olympic spear	6	Killer whale	47	Swift traveler	52	Bad drug	53	Scratched (out)	54	Round Table	55	Round Table	56	Round Table	57	Desert haven	58	Punk-rock subgenre	59	Lighten	60	San —, Italy	61	Sluggers stat	62	Ellington's	63	Not "dis"	64	Capri, e.g.	65	Capri, e.g.	66	Ellington's	67	Not "dis"	68	Capri, e.g.	69	Capri, e.g.	70	Ellington's	71	Not "dis"	72	Capri, e.g.	73	Ellington's	74	Not "dis"	75	Capri, e.g.	76	Ellington's	77	Not "dis"	78	Capri, e.g.	79	Ellington's	80	Not "dis"	81	Capri, e.g.	82	Ellington's	83	Not "dis"	84	Capri, e.g.	85	Ellington's	86	Not "dis"	87	Capri, e.g.	88	Ellington's	89	Not "dis"	90	Capri, e.g.	91	Ellington's	92	Not "dis"	93	Capri, e.g.	94	Ellington's	95	Not "dis"	96	Capri, e.g.	97	Ellington's	98	Not "dis"	99	Capri, e.g.	100	Ellington's	101	Not "dis"	102	Capri, e.g.	103	Ellington's	104	Not "dis"	105	Capri, e.g.	106	Ellington's	107	Not "dis"	108	Capri, e.g.	109	Ellington's	110	Not "dis"	111	Capri, e.g.	112	Ellington's	113	Not "dis"	114	Capri, e.g.	115	Ellington's	116	Not "dis"	117	Capri, e.g.	118	Ellington's	119	Not "dis"	120	Capri, e.g.	121	Ellington's	122	Not "dis"	123	Capri, e.g.	124	Ellington's	125	Not "dis"	126	Capri, e.g.	127	Ellington's	128	Not "dis"	129	Capri, e.g.	130	Ellington's	131	Not "dis"	132	Capri, e.g.	133	Ellington's	134	Not "dis"	135	Capri, e.g.	136	Ellington's	137	Not "dis"	138	Capri, e.g.	139	Ellington's	140	Not "dis"	141	Capri, e.g.	142	Ellington's	143	Not "dis"	144	Capri, e.g.	145	Ellington's	146	Not "dis"	147	Capri, e.g.	148	Ellington's	149	Not "dis"	150	Capri, e.g.	151	Ellington's	152	Not "dis"	153	Capri, e.g.	154	Ellington's	155	Not "dis"	156	Capri, e.g.	157	Ellington's	158	Not "dis"	159	Capri, e.g.	160	Ellington's	161	Not "dis"	162	Capri, e.g.	163	Ellington's	164	Not "dis"	165	Capri, e.g.	166	Ellington's	167	Not "dis"	168	Capri, e.g.	169	Ellington's	170	Not "dis"	171	Capri, e.g.	172	Ellington's	173	Not "dis"	174	Capri, e.g.	175	Ellington's	176	Not "dis"	177	Capri, e.g.	178	Ellington's	179	Not "dis"	180	Capri, e.g.	181	Ellington's	182	Not "dis"	183	Capri, e.g.	184	Ellington's	185	Not "dis"	186	Capri, e.g.	187	Ellington's	188	Not "dis"	189	Capri, e.g.	190	Ellington's	191	Not "dis"	192	Capri, e.g.	193	Ellington's	194	Not "dis"	195	Capri, e.g.	196	Ellington's	197	Not "dis"	198	Capri, e.g.	199	Ellington's	200	Not "dis"	201	Capri, e.g.	202	Ellington's	203	Not "dis"	204	Capri, e.g.	205	Ellington's	206	Not "dis"	207	Capri, e.g.	208	Ellington's	209	Not "dis"	210	Capri, e.g.	211	Ellington's	212	Not "dis"	213	Capri, e.g.	214	Ellington's	215	Not "dis"	216	Capri, e.g.	217	Ellington's	218	Not "dis"	219	Capri, e.g.	220	Ellington's	221	Not "dis"	222	Capri, e.g.	223	Ellington's	224	Not "dis"	225	Capri, e.g.	226	Ellington's	227	Not "dis"	228	Capri, e.g.	229	Ellington's	230	Not "dis"	231	Capri, e.g.	232	Ellington's	233	Not "dis"	234	Capri, e.g.	235	Ellington's	236	Not "dis"	237	Capri, e.g.	238	Ellington's	239	Not "dis"	240	Capri, e.g.	241	Ellington's	242	Not "dis"	243	Capri, e.g.	244	Ellington's	245	Not "dis"	246	Capri, e.g.	247	Ellington's	248	Not "dis"	249	Capri, e.g.	250	Ellington's	251	Not "dis"	252	Capri, e.g.	253	Ellington's	254	Not "dis"	255	Capri, e.g.	256	Ellington's	257	Not "dis"	258	Capri, e.g.	259	Ellington's	260	Not "dis"	261	Capri, e.g.	262	Ellington's	263	Not "dis"	264	Capri, e.g.	265	Ellington's	266	Not "dis"	267	Capri, e.g.	268	Ellington's	269	Not "dis"	270	Capri, e.g.	271	Ellington's	272	Not "dis"	273	Capri, e.g.	274	Ellington's	275	Not "dis"	276	Capri, e.g.	277	Ellington's	278	Not "dis"	279	Capri, e.g.	280	Ellington's	281	Not "dis"	282	Capri, e.g.	283	Ellington's	284	Not "dis"	285	Capri, e.g.	286	Ellington's	287	Not "dis"	288	Capri, e.g.	289	Ellington's	290	Not "dis"	291	Capri, e.g.	292	Ellington's	293	Not "dis"	294	Capri, e.g.	295	Ellington's	296	Not "dis"	297	Capri, e.g.	298	Ellington's	299	Not "dis"	300	Capri, e.g.
26	"Kidding!"	27	Morocco's capital	28	Speck	29	Label	30	Sub shop	31	Video chat format	32	Big mouth	33	Prune	34	Favorite	35	Yesterday's answer 7-25	36	1	Body of water (Abbr.)	37	2	Oasis (Abbr.)	38	3	Desert (Abbr.)	39	4	Wasteland (Abbr.)	40	5	Water (Abbr.)	41	6	Desert (Abbr.)	42	7	Water (Abbr.)	43	8	Desert (Abbr.)	44	9	Water (Abbr.)	45	10	Desert (Abbr.)	46	11	Water (Abbr.)	47	12	Desert (Abbr.)	48	13	Water (Abbr.)	49	14	Desert (Abbr.)	50	15	Water (Abbr.)	51	16	Desert (Abbr.)	52	17	Water (Abbr.)	53	18	Desert (Abbr.)	54	19	Water (Abbr.)	55	20	Desert (Abbr.)	56	21	Water (Abbr.)	57	22	Desert (Abbr.)	58	23	Water (Abbr.)	59	24	Desert (Abbr.)	60	25	Water (Abbr.)	61	26	Desert (Abbr.)	62	27	Water (Abbr.)	63	28	Desert (Abbr.)	64	29	Water (Abbr.)	65	30	Desert (Abbr.)	66	31	Water (Abbr.)	67	32	Desert (Abbr.)	68	33	Water (Abbr.)	69	34	Desert (Abbr.)	70	35	Water (Abbr.)	71	36	Desert (Abbr.)	72	37	Water (Abbr.)	73	38	Desert (Abbr.)	74	39	Water (Abbr.)	75	40	Desert (Abbr.)	76	41	Water (Abbr.)	77	42	Desert (Abbr.)	78	43	Water (Abbr.)	79	44	Desert (Abbr.)																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
Commonwealth Healthcare CorporationREQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)  
RFP19-CHCC/CGC-016

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 29, 2019

TIME: 2:00 PM

## "DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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\*Mandatory bidders meeting on July 03, 2019 @ 11:00 am, Saipan time @ CHCC Conference Room #3.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ SUBROTO BANERJI  
ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT  
INVITATION TO BID  
ITB NO.: ITB19-GAR-114

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 26, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"LEASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "F" PICK-UP TRUCK FOR THE  
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/S/ VIRGINIA VILLAGOMEZ  
GOVERNORS AUTHORIZED REP.

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR OF P&S

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Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers. Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information. Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes. Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations. Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and produce documents. Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers.

## DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

• High School Graduate or its equivalence;

• At least 24 months experience in bookkeeping, accounting or auditing clerk; &amp;

• Must be knowledgeable in operating PC, adding machine, electric typewriter, accounting software such as QuickBooks and/or Peachtree.

All interested applicants can submit resume at [anmier@gppcinc.com](mailto:anmier@gppcinc.com) or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Koshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.

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Install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Ensure that work is in accordance with relevant codes. May install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems. Plan layout and installation of electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures, based on job requirements and safety standards. Connect wires to circuit breakers, transformers, or other components. Test electrical systems or continuity of circuits in electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures, using testing devices, such as ohmmeters, voltmeters, or oscilloscopes, to ensure compatibility and safety of system. Use a variety of tools or equipment to perform work. Operate power tools, measuring devices, power tools, and testing equipment, such as oscilloscopes, ammeters, or test lamps. Inspect electrical systems, equipment, or components to identify hazards, defects, or need for adjustment or repair, and to ensure compliance with codes.

## DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

• HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE;

• AT LEAST 24 MONTHS EXPERIENCE

• KNOWLEDGE IN USING MEASURING DEVICES, POWER TOOLS AND TESTING EQUIPMENT SUCH AS OMMETERS, VOLTMETERS, OSCILLOSCOPES, AMMETERS, OR TEST LAMPS.

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Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul mobile mechanical, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, and conveyors, used in construction, logging, and surface mining. Repair and replace damaged or worn parts. Test mechanical products and equipment after repair or assembly to ensure proper performance and compliance with manufacturers' specifications. Operate and inspect machines or heavy equipment to diagnose defects. Read and understand operating manuals, blueprints, and technical drawings. Dismantle and reassemble heavy equipment using hoists and hand tools.

## DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

• HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE;

• AT LEAST 24 MONTHS EXPERIENCE

• KNOWLEDGE IN HOIST, HAND TOOLS AND TESTERS.

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## DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers. Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information. Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes. Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations. Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and produce documents. Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers.

## DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

• High School Graduate or its equivalence;

• At least 24 months experience in bookkeeping, accounting or auditing clerk;

• Must be knowledgeable in operating PC, adding machine, electric typewriter, accounting software such as QuickBooks and/or Peachtree.

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## DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Perform work involving the skills of two or more

maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Duties may involve pipe fitting; bolt, nail, screw, screwdriver, wrench, hammering; carpentry; painting; welding; electrical or mechanical equipment; aligning, balancing and new equipment; and repairing buildings, floors, or stairs. Inspect, operate, or test machinery or equipment to diagnose machine malfunctions. Dismantle machines, equipment, or devices to access and remove defective parts using tools, cranes, hoists, and other tools. Perform routine maintenance, such as inspecting drive motors, or belts, checking fluid levels, replacing filters, or doing other preventive maintenance actions. Diagnose mechanical problems and determine how to correct them, checking blueprints, repair manual, or parts catalogs, as necessary.

## DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

• HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE;

• AT LEAST 12 MONTHS EXPERIENCE

• KNOWLEDGE IN USING HAND AND POWER TOOLS SUCH AS CORDLESS POWER DRILLS, POWER CIRCULAR SAWS AND PULLERS.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

## Solicitation for Bids for Generator Overhaul on Managaha Island

Tasi Tours and Transportation, Inc. ("Tasi") operates a tourism concession on Managaha Island under a contract with the CNMI Department of Public Lands. Under this contract, Tasi maintains generators to provide power on Managaha. Tasi is soliciting formal bids for the overhaul of one of these generators, a Denyo, DCA-150SPK generator, 1997 model, which has over 12,000 running hours on it since its last overhaul in April, 2012. The award is contingent upon approval by the Department of Public Lands.

Bid packages are available now. If desired, boat transportation to Managaha to view the generator may be arranged by calling David L. Igital at Tasi at (670) 235-9373. Such arrangements must be made by no later than July 26, 2019.

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# NBA opening probe on free agency tampering



The NBA is opening an investigation into the free-agency process after several teams raised concerns about tampering at the league's annual board of governors meeting earlier this month.

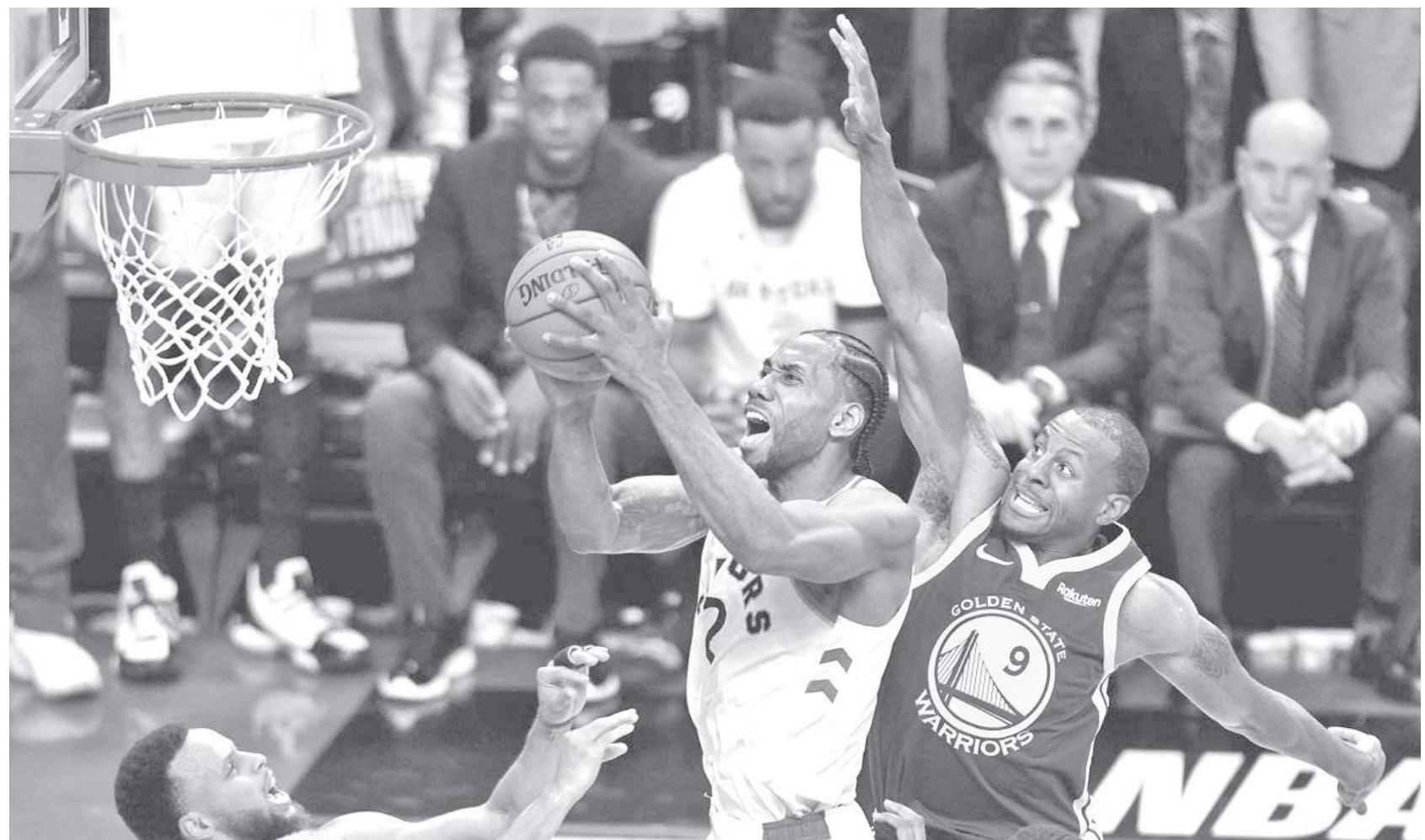
Many of the highest-profile deals were agreed upon either before free agency opened at 6pm on June 30 or soon afterward. Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving were Brooklyn Nets before they were technically allowed to negotiate with them. Kemba Walker was in Boston to shake hands on a deal with the Celtics that had been reported for nearly a week. Al Horford was on hold to join the Philadelphia 76ers moments after they coordinated a complicated sign-and-trade of Jimmy Butler to the Miami Heat, all of which occurred in the first three hours of free agency.

It would be almost impossible for any of this to happen so quickly had the groundwork not been laid in the weeks and months leading up to June 30. The jokes about tampering wrote themselves, and then came the biggest punchline: Kawhi Leonard helped orchestrate Paul George's exit from the Oklahoma City Thunder, so the two All-NBA wings could join forces on the Los Angeles Clippers.

If some teams were miffed about the blind eye that has been turned to tampering, all of them should be concerned with George's departure. He is only a year removed from signing a four-year max contract with the Thunder, which essentially means everyone is in play. If everyone is in play—and if everyone is tampering—then chaos can ensue. At the very least, team-building becomes impossible.

The league prohibits teams from tampering with players under contract elsewhere. Violations, by rule, can result in fines, the revoking of draft picks and/or voiding contracts, although those guidelines are rarely enforced. After repeated warnings, the Los Angeles Lakers were fined \$500,000 for contacting George's agent while he was under contract with the Thunder in 2017. Players are also subject to fines for tampering, but the league has been even less stringent about enforcing that rule.

Following reported complaints from small-market teams, the NBA sent an anti-tampering memo to all 30 organizations after LeBron James made public his desire to play with Anthony Davis in December. Davis requested a trade from the New Orleans Pelicans a month later, and he was traded to the Lakers after



Toronto Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard (2) drives against Golden State Warriors guards Andre Iguodala (9) and Stephen Curry during the first half of Game 1 of the NBA Finals, Thursday, May 30, 2019, in Toronto. AP

the season.

While speaking from the board of governors meeting in Las Vegas earlier this month, NBA commissioner Adam Silver stressed the importance of addressing the topics of tampering and trade demands, if only because league rules demand it.

"I think the consensus at both our committee meetings and the board meeting was that we need to revisit and reset those rules, that some of the rules we have in place may not make sense," Silver said. "I think that's what we discussed. I think it's pointless at the end of the day to have rules that we can't enforce. I think it hurts the perception of integrity around the league if people say, 'Well, you have that rule and it's obvious that teams aren't fully complying, so why do you have it?'"

It is perhaps of greatest concern to small-market teams that six of the biggest names to change teams this summer—Durant, Irving, Leonard, George, Butler and Davis—landed in either Los Angeles, New York or Miami. How much that plays into the conversation surrounding potential free-agency fixes will be interesting.

One such fix could be reworking the offseason schedule. As Yahoo Sports reported in June, the league is also expected to reconsider this summer the possibility of conducting trades and/or free agency prior to the draft. That would allow for discussions about

player movement soon after the Finals concludes.

According to ESPN's report, the NBA's tampering investigation will focus on the agreed-upon deals at the start of free agency, which includes a large chunk of this summer's billion-dollar business. It is unclear yet what, if anything, will result from the review. League officials will reportedly be interviewing pertinent parties soon.

## Did Magic's big mouth cost Lakers Kawhi?

Magic Johnson loves to talk. His desire to tweet freely, without risk of tampering, is one of the reasons he gave for abruptly resigning as president of basketball operations for the Los Angeles Lakers back in April. But his love of sharing may have hurt the Lakers' chances of signing Leonard.

According to Jovan Buha and Sam Amick of The Athletic, the notoriously private and guarded Leonard was not happy that details of a meeting between him, his uncle Dennis Robertson, and Johnson were leaked to the media, and that may have been one of the reasons why he passed on the Lakers and eventually signed with the Los Angeles Clippers. Leonard had reportedly asked every team he was considering during free agency to refrain from leaking any details about anything.

Johnson wasn't allowed to participate in any of the official Lakers team meetings with Leonard, but he was clearly representing them and

recruiting for them during his meeting with Leonard and Robertson. And according to Ramona Shelburne of ESPN, Johnson freely talked about the meeting.

Johnson talking about it is pretty much the complete polar opposite of what Leonard reportedly wanted. And though we don't know for sure that Johnson's overshare is what scuttled a potential deal, it certainly couldn't have helped. Leonard ended up signing with the Clippers, a team that—according to The Athletic—leaked absolutely nothing about their discussions with Leonard.

Meanwhile, the Dallas Mavericks have signed free agent Boban Marjanovic, bringing the 7-foot-3 center back to Texas three years after he spent his rookie season with the rival San Antonio Spurs.

Marjanovic was sent to Philadelphia from the Los Angeles Clippers before the trading deadline last season and averaged a career-high 8.1 points along with 5.1 rebounds in 22 regular-season games before helping the 76ers reach the second round of the playoffs. Philadelphia lost to eventual champion Toronto in seven games.

In four seasons, the 30-year-old Serbian has averaged 6.2 points and 3.9 rebounds. Marjanovic began his second season with Detroit and went to the Clippers in the blockbuster trade that sent Blake Griffin to the Pistons. Marjanovic played profes-

sionally in Serbia, Russia and Lithuania before coming to the NBA. He will be one of

two 7-3 Europeans with the Mavericks alongside Kristaps Porzingis of Latvia.

## Zion signs \$75M deal with Jordan Brand

NEW YORK—The race to sign basketball's most marketable young star is over.

New Orleans Pelicans forward Zion Williamson announced on Instagram on Tuesday that he is signing an endorsement deal with Jordan Brand. Financial terms of the deal were not immediately available, but Adam Zagoria of Forbes reports the deal to be worth seven years and \$75 million.

"Zion's incredible determination, character and play are inspiring," the brand's founder, Michael Jordan, said in a statement. "He's an essential part of the new talent that will help lead the brand into the future. He told us he would 'shock the world,' and asked us to believe him. We do."

Jordan Brand is owned by Nike Inc. but has morphed into a distinct brand since its creation in 1984—which, in part, helped lure its namesake to the company. Boston Celtics guard Jayson Tatum and Washington Redskins rookie Dwayne Haskins are among those who also have signed with the brand this summer.

"Since I was a kid, I dreamed of making it to the league and having the type of impact on the game Michael Jordan had and continues

to have today," Williamson said in a statement. "He was one of those special athletes I looked up to, and I really can't express how happy and excited I am for this journey."

Williamson, who was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2019 draft, has been hotly coveted by a variety of companies since turning pro, and his shoe deal has long been expected to be among the most lucrative for a rookie in NBA history.

"He is going to have an opportunity to be the face of every company and every major corporation," longtime shoe executive Sonny Vaccaro told ESPN in April. "He is the most marketable person I've seen."

Williamson only played in part of one game in the NBA's summer league before being sidelined with a bruised left knee, as a precaution.

He famously suffered a knee injury midway through his only year at Duke when his foot ripped through the side of a Nike shoe, a PG 2.5 from Paul George's signature line.

Williamson returned to the court after missing six games with a modified Nike shoe from Kyrie Irving's line and thanked the company for making a new pair of shoes for him that he said were "a little stronger than the regular Kyrie 4s."

# As rookies begin camp, Vikings face high expectations

**EAGAN, Minn.** (AP)—Three seasons ago, when the Minnesota Vikings stumbled after a 5-0 start and finished just 8-8, one of their many problems was a negligible contribution by their collection of first-year players.

The following summer, school started early for the new students. Coach Mike Zimmer hasn't looked back.

"That was the rookie class that didn't really give us much that year," Zimmer said, reflecting on the 2016 draftees, "so I figured the more that we could

help them with these kinds of things, the faster that they can get up to speed, they might be able to help us a little bit."

Headlined by center and first-round draft pick Garrett Bradbury, a group of 37 rookies and assorted other players took the field at team headquarters on Tuesday for the first official practice of training camp. The balance of the squad will join them on Friday.

The Vikings in 2019 will be a decidedly veteran team, molded with a Super Bowl-or-bust mentality and featuring 12 players with a salary with an average annual contract

## Bengals owner Brown opposes 18-game schedule proposal

**CINCINNATI** (AP)—Bengals owner Mike Brown thinks the NFL's current 16-game schedule for the regular season is long enough, and he doubts that the league will be able to shorten the preseason and add games that count in the standings because of the players' opposition.

Brown said Tuesday that he strongly opposes a suggestion to have an 18-game regular season and allow teams to rest players for two of the games. He can't envision playing the Steelers, for instance, with a healthy Ben Roethlisberger sitting out.

"Well, that's absurd," Brown said. "I don't want that."

Brown thinks that players' safety concerns over adding games will likely keep the regular season in its current format.

"These seasons are long and they take a toll on you mentally, they take a toll on players physically," Brown said at the team's annual media luncheon. "Maybe we should just step back and accept the 16 number and go with it."

Commissioner Roger Goodell reiterated last month that he wants to reduce the number of preseason games. The length of the season is one topic of preliminary talks between the league and the players' association over a new collective bargaining agreement. The current one expires after the 2020 season.

One proposal would eliminate two preseason games and add two in the regular season. To avoid putting a more physical toll on players, they would get two regular games off.

"Different owners have different thoughts and they're welcome to express them, to argue them," Brown said. "I just don't think we want to play Boston unless (Tom) Brady isn't playing."

"Everyone knows the discussion on this. It isn't the way football has been played. Baseball is played that way,

different pitchers and all. In our game, you get the best team out there, and I think that's the way it ought to be."

The discussion is driven by dissatisfaction with regulars held out for most of the preseason. They typically play only a small portion of two games and sit out the final one entirely.

Brown said owners allowed the preseason games to evolve into exhibitions with little, if any, playing time for starters because coaches didn't want to risk injuries.

"I don't blame coaches for doing that, they were protecting their interest, their players," Brown said. "They didn't want them exposed, they didn't want them injured, but it impacted the product and we didn't step up and handle it as owners. We accepted it, and I think it got us to where we are today."

The Bengals drew 35,633 and 39,520 fans for their two home preseason games last year, when they had a third straight losing season and a third straight significant decline in attendance. Cincinnati averaged only 50,753 fans in the regular season, the second-lowest in the league.

The plummeting fan interest was a factor in Brown firing Marvin Lewis after his 16th season as head coach and hiring Zac Taylor. Lewis went 0-7 in the playoffs, extending the Bengals' mark of no postseason victory since the 1990 season.

Brown pointed out that the Bengals made the playoffs from 2011-15, a franchise record, but lost in the first round all five times to extend their streak of futility.

They've gone 6-9-1, 7-9 and 6-10 the last three years, falling to last in the AFC North.

"That's an eternity in this business," Brown said. "That's what people remember. We want to re-excite our fan base."



**AP** Minnesota Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins demonstrates catching during the NFL football team's training camp which opened with rookies and select veterans Tuesday July 23, 2019, in Eagan, Minn.

begins Sept. 8.

The Patriots declined to comment.

The 33-year-old Edelman missed the first four games last season after violating the NFL's policy on performance-enhancing drugs. In the 13-3 victory over the Los Angeles Rams in the Super Bowl, he caught 10 passes for 141 yards and was the first receiver to earn MVP honors in 10 years.

Cutting will, too, but in a different way. He's a second lieutenant in the Air Force, which has assigned him to recruitment. So he'll be able to fulfill that post-graduate duty while not having put his NFL dream on hold.

"The Academy has helped me a lot, not just in the football aspect but in everything and life, too, so I have people there that have my back," Cutting said, adding: "It's definitely a stressor taken off of me. It was stressful, because it was nothing that I could control yet was still something that I had to keep up with and monitor. Now it's nice to be able to be here and focus on football."

These rookies, from Bradbury to Cutting, likely won't feel the same type of burden that so many others in the organization will carry into this season, whether it's acknowledged publicly or not.

"The expectations or the pressure are no different than they are any other year," general manager Rick Spielman said. "I know last year was disappointing from where we felt we were and where we ended up. I know we did a lot of things to try and correct those areas that we needed to address during the offseason, and I think we've accomplished that so far. But it's yet to be determined."

In Jacksonville, the Jaguars will open training camp with two offensive starters and a rookie on the physically unable to perform list.

The Jaguars placed veteran receiver Marqise Lee, left tackle Cam Robinson and fifth-round draft pick Ryquell Armstead on the PUP list Tuesday, two days before they open camp. Lee tore several ligaments in his left knee in a preseason game last August. Robinson tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee in Week 2.

Armstead injured a hamstring during organized team activities and sat out a mandatory minicamp.

value of \$9 million or more. They likely won't last long in the postseason, let alone qualify for it, without a productive core of players still on rookie-level salaries.

Bradbury will be leaned on heavily, the anchor of an offensive line that has struggled more often than not in recent years and must better protect quarterback Kirk Cousins.

Tight end Irv Smith Jr. (second round) and running back Alexander Mattison (third round) will be asked right away to play supporting roles in the offense. Long snapper Austin Cutting, his military service requirement ironed out with the Air Force Academy, would not have been drafted had the Vikings not believed he could beat out Kevin McDermott for that specialist's role. Perhaps cornerback Kris Boyd, another seventh-rounder, will prove

his worth as needed depth behind starters Xavier Rhodes and Trae Waynes, with Holton Hill facing an eight-game suspension and Mike Hughes returning from reconstructive ACL surgery on his left knee.

Three years ago, wide receiver Laquon Treadwell was the first-round pick with only one catch to show for his first NFL season, second-rounder cornerback Mackensie Alexander was slow to warm to the slot position, and fourth-round offensive tackle Willie Beavers was overmatched. The draft classes from 2017 and 2018 have so far proven to be more impactful.

Given his draft status and critical position, Bradbury will face the most pressure to perform from the outset. The North Carolina State product clearly has the confidence to meet the expectations that

have surrounded him.

"It's just trusting the preparation," Bradbury said. "I've been studying the playbook a lot, and I just need to be confident with my calls."

Said Zimmer: "He's a brilliant kid, so that helps a lot. He's going to have a big load."

Meanwhile, in Massachusetts, Super Bowl MVP Julian Edelman was seen wearing a brace or splint on his left thumb at a youth camp he organized last weekend and he will reportedly be limited for three weeks.

Pictures of Edelman taken over the weekend show him with a device on his thumb. He was wearing gloves on both hands.

According to published reports, Edelman will be limited for the first three weeks of training camp, which starts Thursday. The regular season

# Hicks' wild catch rallies Yankees past Twins

 MINNEAPOLIS (AP)— One late rally just wasn't enough.

On a wild Tuesday night at Target Field, the New York Yankees required a string of comebacks to finally subdue the Minnesota Twins.

Shortly after Didi Gregorius capped a sensational 5-for-5, seven-RBI night with a base hit, Gleyber Torres drove him home with a go-ahead single during a two-run 10th inning.

Entering with two out and the bases loaded, Chad Green finally secured a 14-12 Yankees win that was unlike any of their previous 64 victories this year.

Of course it ended with an incredible, game-saving catch by Aaron Hicks—laying out with a dive at the warning track.

If this game were played in October, it would be replayed over and over.

At one point, the Yankees trailed the Twins by six runs.

Down to their last strike in the ninth, Mike Tauchman kept hope alive with a two-out walk and Hicks followed with a two-run homer that put the Yankees ahead 12-11 in a crazy slugfest between the AL's two most power-laden lineups.

But to start the Twins' ninth, Aroldis Chapman lost the strike zone but didn't lose the game.

After loading the bases to open the inning, Chapman yielded just a game-tying sacrifice fly to Eddie Rosario.

Players on both teams were bouncing along the dugout railings and madly celebrating each comeback, making it feel more like mid-October than late July.

But the Twins' loss emphasized their desperate need for a relief pitching.

And neither club was thrilled by plate umpire Ramon DeJesus' strike zone, though it was Twins manager Rocco Baldelli and later his hitting coach, James Rowson, who wound up getting ejected for arguing balls and strikes.

Gregorius' two-run double put the Yankees (65-35) ahead to cap a sensational, five-run eighth inning.

But that one-run edge against the Twins (61-39) was short-lived.

Miguel Sano's second home run of the night was a monstrous, two-run shot off Zack Britton in the bottom of the eighth, giving the Twins an 11-10 lead.

That eighth inning might have been costlier for the Yankees, as Gary Sanchez exited a tough 0-for-5 night after trying to beat out a single; he appeared to injure himself running down the line and was replaced by catcher Austin



AP

New York Yankees center fielder Aaron Hicks catches the ball hit by Minnesota Twins' Nelson Cruz during the third inning of a baseball game in New York.

cruised through seven innings of two-hit ball, and Miami beat the White Sox.

Curtis Granderson hit a two-run homer to cap Miami's four-run fourth inning against Dylan Covey (1-6). Harold Ramirez added a solo shot in the fifth as the NL-worst Marlins ended a four-game skid.

## Athletics 4, Astros 3, 11 innings

In Houston, Matt Olson hit a three-run home run in the ninth inning and Ramon Laureano added a ground-rule RBI double with one out in the 11th, giving Oakland a win over Houston.

It was tied at 3-3 when Olson singled off Collin McHugh (3-5) with one out in the 11th, before Mark Canha walked. Laureano then hit a ball to left field that rolled to the wall and lodged between the padding and the ground. Both runners scored by the time Josh Reddick got the ball and threw it in. But the play was reviewed and Canha was returned to third base because the ball was lodged under the wall.

Oakland starter Mike Fiers allowed six hits and two runs in 7 2/3 innings but did not factor into the decision. Yusmeiro Petit (3-2) struck out two in two perfect innings for the win.

## Phillies 3, Tigers 2, 15 innings

In Detroit, Scott Kingery tripled to lead off the 15th inning and scored on a single by Rhys Hoskins as Philadelphia outlasted the Tigers.

Kingery, who had struck out four times, hit a drive to deep right off Daniel Stumpf (1-1) to start the winning rally. Hoskins followed with a clean single to right.

Detroit nearly won it in the 14th against Jose Alvarez (1-2), but left fielder Brad Miller homered twice, Nomar Mazara reached the third deck with an impressive shot and Texas ended an eight-game skid with a win over the Mariners.

Shin-Soo Choo led off the game by homering on Tommy Milone's first pitch, and the Rangers went on to snap the fourth-longest losing streak in the majors this year. Seattle has lost three of four.

Milone (1-5) pitched through the sixth inning, giving up nine hits and striking out five.

Calhoun's preparation resulted in a nearly perfect play, and the Los Angeles Angels slipped out of Dodger Stadium with yet another win in the Freeway Series.

Romine. After the game, manager Aaron Boone said Sanchez might have to go on the IL due to a groin injury.

Romine's 10th inning single pushed Gregorius into scoring position and Romine scored the second run on a wild pitch.

### Mets 5, Padres 2

In New York, Robinson Canó hit three home runs, leading Jason Vargas and New York over San Diego.

The 36-year-old Canó drove in all five runs and went 4 for 4. Vargas pitched one-hit ball for six shutout innings.

Canó homered three times in a game for the first time in his career. It was just the third three-homer game ever by a Mets player at home — Lucas Duda and Kirk Nieuwenhuis both did it in July 2015.

### Cardinals 4, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Paul Goldschmidt homered for the second straight night, José Martínez added his 10th home run and Dakota Hudson rebounded from a shaky start to lead St. Louis past the Pirates.

Goldschmidt delivered a two-run drive in the third inning off Chris Archer (3-7). Martínez put St. Louis in front with a solo shot leading off the fifth, and Hudson and two relievers shut down the Pirates after spotting Pittsburgh a 3-0 lead.

### Blue Jays 2, Indians 1

In Toronto, Justin Smoak tied the game with a homer in the

ninth inning and knocked in the winning run with a two-out single in the 10th, as the Blue Jays beat Cleveland.

Smoak got the winning hit off lefty Tyler Olson (1-1), scoring Eric Sogard.

Toronto's Ken Giles (2-2) pitched one inning and earned the win.

### Royals 5, Braves 4

In Atlanta, Lucas Duda delivered Kansas City's first pinch-hit homer of the season to break a tie in the eighth inning, and the Royals beat the NL East-leading Braves.

Alex Gordon also homered for the Royals and drove in two runs.

Starters Dallas Keuchel of Atlanta and Danny Duffy of Kansas City went six strong innings with double-digit strikeouts but didn't factor in the decision. Keuchel allowed just three hits and struck out 12. Duffy surrendered one run on five hits with 11 strikeouts.

Ian Kennedy gave up three straight singles to start the ninth but bounced back for his 18th save.

### Reds 14, Brewers 6

In Milwaukee, Eugenio Suárez hit his third two-run home run in two games and Cincinnati battered Zach Davies for seven runs in a rout of Milwaukee.

Jesse Winker and Joey Votto hit two-run homers and pinch-hitter Phillip Ervin had

a three-run triple as Cincinnati beat the Brewers for the fifth straight time.

Davies (8-3) allowed six earned runs and nine hits in four-plus innings.

### Orioles 7, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Dwight Smith Jr. hit a three-run home run, Dylan Bundy pitched six solid innings and Baltimore beat Arizona.

Renato Núñez and Anthony Santander also homered for the Orioles.

Bundy (5-11) allowed two runs, four hits and three walks while striking out five for his second win in three starts.

Baltimore has won four of six.

### Rangers 7, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Rougned Odor homered twice, Nomar Mazara reached the third deck with an impressive shot and Texas ended an eight-game skid with a win over the Mariners.

Shin-Soo Choo led off the game by homering on Tommy Milone's first pitch, and the Rangers went on to snap the fourth-longest losing streak in the majors this year. Seattle has lost three of four.

Milone (1-5) pitched through the sixth inning, giving up nine hits and striking out five.

### Marlins 5, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Caleb Smith retired his first 17 batters and

# TSL Foundation backs fishing tournaments



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, center, presents the ceremonial check donation to I Sanhalom Laguna Anglers Association officials yesterday at the TanHoldings Corporate Affairs office in Garapan. Also attending the donation turnover ceremony are Tan Siu Lin Foundation assistant manager Raymond Zapanta, left, and administrative officer Mel Naputi, right.

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation is helping keep sports fishing alive and well in the Marianas by supporting two competitions.

The TSL Foundation donated \$2,500 to the Saipan Fishermen's Association for the 35th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament held over the weekend. The charitable arm of TanHoldings is also rallying behind the fledgling I Sanhalom Laguna Anglers Association after handing over \$1,000 for the staging of the 2019 annual ISLA Mafuti Fishing Derby on Aug. 3. Both the SFA and ISLA encourage



members and participants of their tournaments to observe eco-friendly fishing methods with the former even holding a side competition for boats that will collect the most water waste along their route.

"We join SFA and ISLA in the promotion of competitive, but responsible fishing derby to protect our ocean and our environment. Congratulations to all the winners of the international fishing tournament and we wish the competitors in next month's mafuti derby

## MARIANAS

From Page 28

After keeping *Marianas Variety* within striking distance in the first half, Lakay folded up in the third, making only three field goals and 7 points. Yeyel Manalo scored 4 points, while Ronaldo Bernardo chipped in 2, and Shane Deleon Guerrero had a split free throw in the penultimate-quarter meltdown.

Bernardo tried to rally back

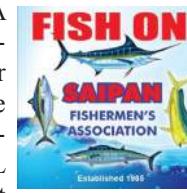


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Fishermen's Association officials receive the ceremonial check donation for the 35th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament from Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, fourth left, last week at the TanHoldings Corporate Affairs office in Garapan. Also in the photo are from left, TSL Foundation administrative officer Mel Naputi, SFA's Tony Scragg, Gene Weaver, and Diego Benavente, and TanHoldings chief executive officer Jerry Tan, right.

last Thursday. ISLA president Mike Sablan, on the other hand, received the donation from Tolentino, Naputi, and TSL Foundation assistant manager Raymond Zapanta yesterday, and were joined in the brief ceremony by other ISLA officials.

"Sports fishing is one of



the popular events in the Marianas and we commend SFA and ISLA for hosting competitions and keeping the tradition in our islands alive," Tan said.

ISLA will be holding its second mafuti derby and is aiming to surpass the competition turnout last year. More

than 20 boats and nearly 60 anglers joined the inaugural tournament in 2018.

As for SFA's signature annual event, last weekend's fishing derby drew over 70 boats from Saipan, Guam, Tinian, Rota, and Palau. Aquaholics of captain Tony Flores won the grand prize for reeling in a 462-lb marlin on Day 1 of the competition last Saturday. (PR)

periods, while Deleon Guerrero logged only one field goal and finished with 4 markers.

**Marianas Variety 72**—Andrew 16, Viray 16, P. Factor 13, Villarin 8, A. Factor 6, Quan 3, Standish 3, Younis 2, Babauta 2.

**Lakay 54**—Bernardo 25, Manalo 14, Gaviola 5, Deleon Guerrero 4, Alegre 2, Camacho 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 11-11, 34-26, 59-33, 72-54.

## TIME

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of Micronesia's Deavyn Etscheit in the 9am (7am Saipan time) Group A match on Court 6 of the International Tennis Federation's Regional Training Centre, while on Court 4, Woo will take on Fiji's Daniel Kumar for the Group D game. Tahiti's Vaitea Molinier and the Norfolk Island's Sam Cribb complete Group D, while Vanuatu's Clement Main-guy and Tahiti's Mohearii will join Ryu and Etscheit in Group A of the pool play.

Lee is also playing in the boys U16 singles and is on Group B with Samoa's Philip Warren, Tahiti's Manovai Elit, and Kiribati's Torua Boari. He will challenge Warren on Court 6 after Ryu and Etscheit's tiff.

Maria Gregoire will have her first match, too on Court 6, as she faces the Solomon Islands' Prudence Bird in the Group A pairing in the girls U16 singles. Samoa's Eleanor Schuster is the other player in Group A, while Group B has

Fiji's Saoirse Breen, FSM's Ridianne Wolhagen, and the Norfolk Islands' Hannah Wright. Samoa's Penina Kamu, Tahiti's Chrissy Vonge, and Vanuatu's Joanita Takata-

ky are in Group C, while the Solomon Islands' Zorika Morgan, FSM's Anne Skilling, and Tahiti's Celine Snogan make up Group D.

In the girls U14 singles, Elliot will square off against Fiji's Fazneen Fareen in Group A, which also has Tahiti's Vaiani Dusserre-Valleaux. Kim is in Group C and will debut against Samoa's Roselyn Tupuola, while the other pairing in the pool will have the Cook Islands' Te Akaiti Toa taking on Kiribati's Eretu Tabekatarawa. In Group D, Chung will collide with Fiji's Charlotte Nicolaus, while the Cook Islands' Moana Une will meet FSM's Leilah Etscheit.

In the boys U14 singles, Anthony Gregoire's first match in Group A is against Tahiti's Noah Chin, while Group C's Kwon and Group D's Kang are battling FSM's Jones George and Vanuatu's Noah Molbaleh, respectively.

Players in the U14 and U16 singles will battle in pool play to determine the playoff qualifiers, while U12 bets will compete in the team event.

Hwang is the CNMI's lone player in the U12 age group and will team up with the representatives of Tuvalu, as they duel Guam in the opening game today.

## THOMPSON

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rier for 15-year-old Juhn Tenorio, as he set a strong 1:04.91 seconds in the men's 100m backstroke event last Sunday.

As the youngest swimmer entered into the event, he was by no means out of his depth. The youngster, bristling with potential, will no doubt build upon this experience as he grows and develops in the sport. As to how he will improve and bring down that time, Tenorio highlighted some areas he needed to improve on himself.

"I died pretty hard coming back, I think I've got to train more in my legs and in my arms," he said.

Reflecting on participating in his first World Championships, he summed up his emotions this way.

"It feels unthinkable, I never thought I would represent

his team in the final frame with his multiple baskets, however Viray countered with his own string of field goals to keep *Marianas Variety*'s safe distance. Viray nailed 10 points in the fourth period against the 9 of Bernardo and the former finished with a team-high 16 points.

Andrew also recorded 16

markers for *Marianas Variety*, as he delivered at least one field goal in each of the four quarters. Factor recorded double figures,

too with his 13, making up for a scoreless first canto. Factor's younger brother, Angelo and Melvin Villarin combined for 14 more points for the league's overall champion.

Bernardo led all scorers with his 25 points, but clearly lacked support from his teammates, as only Manalo chipped in more than two field goals for Lakay after registering 14 points. Renren Gaviola had a quiet 5 points and was scoreless in the first and third



THE REPORTERS ACADEMY

The CNMI's Juhn Tenorio races in the 100m backstroke qualifying event in the 18th FINA World Swimming Championships in Gwangju, South Korea last weekend.

my small island on this big of a stage so I'm very thankful about that," Tenorio said.

Interestingly, a recurring theme developed as he went

on to discuss the differences between the tournament in Gwangju and the CNMI.

"(It's) very different back home. Back home we don't

have a pool so it's been quite a while since I've swam long course. It's a good opportunity (so I'm) thankful that I'm here."

NBA opening probe  
on free agency  
tampering

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# Saipan Tribune Sports



Hicks' wild catch  
rallies Yankees  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Time to test jr. tennis players

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**I**t's now the CNMI National Junior Tennis Team's turn to hit the court and make the Commonwealth proud, as games in the 2019 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships kick off today in Lautoka, Fiji.



Juncheol Hwang, Daniel Kang, David Kwon, Anthony Gregoire, Helen Kim, Hyejin Elliot, Serin Chung, Jimin Woo, Sean Lee, Sam Ryu, and Maria Gregoire will be the CNMI's representatives to the POJC—another regional competition that opens than a week after the XVI Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa. Jeff Race, who guided the CNMI to a four-medal (three golds and one silver) haul in the Pacific Games, will also coach the junior players in the POJC.

Woo and Ryu will start the Commonwealth's bid in the tournament, as they see action in the boys U16 singles event's first set of matches. Ryu will duel the Federated State

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Anthony Gregoire will be playing his first game in the boys U14 singles event in the 2019 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships today in Lautoka, Fiji.

## Thompson settles into home away from home

By SIMON SMITH  
THE REPORTERS ACADEMY



**Fina**  
WORLD  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
The 18th FINA World Swimming Championships in Gwangju, South Korea is dear to the CNMI's Jinju Thompson.

"This meet is extra special for me, my mom is from Korea so I felt really nervous but it was a good kind of nervous. I feel a lot of support and it's extra special," Thompson said.

Thompson wasn't exaggerating the amount of support and attention she's been receiving. The Korean national press has picked up on her and she was a popular interviewee after her race. Thompson swam in the 200m freestyle last Tuesday and clocked in at 2:32.35 seconds. She explained she would like to improve and saw the value of positive next steps in training that could be taken.



THE REPORTERS ACADEMY  
The CNMI's Jinju Thompson swims in the 200m freestyle qualifying race in the 18th FINA World Swimming Championships in Gwangju, South Korea last Tuesday.

"I could have done better, I tried my hardest, of course. The results were around the times I thought I would get, aiming for 2:29-ish, I guess it's all about training now."

As the reflection continued, so did the list of positives that could be taken away from the morning heat.

"I can take a lot away from that swim, things that I can work on. The little things that will help me achieve my personal best, I saw in this race. I need to work on my walls, so I think the goal for the 100m free, there is only one turn so, just killing that wall!" the CNMI swimmer said.

What she humbly didn't mention is that this islander is just 16 years old. Therefore, it's a great performance on the world stage. The sky's the limit in terms of progressing this young career.

**Thankful for the opportunity**  
Meanwhile, age also proved no bar-

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**Marianas Variety**  
defeats Lakay  
in grand finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



*Marianas Variety* prevailed in the battle of champions after cruising past Lakay, 72-54, last Saturday at the Koberville Gymnasium.

*Marianas Variety* pulled away in the third period en route to the 18-point winning margin in the grand finale that featured the teams that topped Groups A and B of the competition.

Prince Factor, Joshua Andrew, and Ken Viray teamed up in *Marianas Variety*'s assault in the pivotal third quarter after combining for 15 points. Factor knocked in two triples, while Andrew and Viray added 5 and 4 markers to turn a 34-26 halftime lead to a 59-33 advantage, going into the last canto.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
*Marianas Variety*'s Joshua Andrew faces two DC defenders during their Group A title match in the Civic Center caging early this month in Susupe.